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12 year-old dies after new outbreak

China's first bird flu death?

By Qiu Jiaoning

A 12-year-old girl has died in what could be China's first reported human death from bird flu. The girl, from Wantang Village in Hunan Province, died yesterday after suffering from bird flu-like symptoms, an official from Hunan Provincial Department of Health, confirmed.

He Yin and her 10-year-old brother fell ill a week ago after eating a chicken that had died from an unspecified illness in Wantang Village. Doctors told her family she had died from a fever.

Farmers in Wantang said many birds suddenly died 10 days ago. Wantang Village is located in Xiangtan County, where the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed 545 chickens and ducks died from the H5N1 strain of bird flu. So far, local authorities have killed 2,487 birds and vaccinated 43,750 since the bird flu was discovered there last Saturday.

"The girl's initial blood test has come back negative for the H5N1 bird flu virus. But we still cannot exclude the possibility of bird flu infection," the official, who declined to give his name, said. The exact cause of the girl's death will probably be revealed today.

"Experts from Beijing are taking care of the girl's younger brother who still has a fever. They will also conduct a post-mortem examination of the girl's body, and examine those in close contact with her," he added.

An official from China's Ministry of Health said yesterday that the ministry has not received any reports of human infection of bird flu.

It is the third outbreak in China in less than two weeks. The other two were in Inner Mongolia and An-

hui Province. At least 2,600 infected chickens and ducks died in Tengjiaying Village in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia. Over 90,000 other birds were destroyed in and around the affected area and 166,177 vaccinated. In Liangying Village, Anhui Province, 550 chicken and geese died from the H5N1 strain, 44,736 other birds in the area were destroyed and 140,000 were vaccinated.

China mobilized roadside sterilization stations and inspected markets to step-up measures to contain bird flu after the third outbreak. Many large cities have set up sterilization stations at major highways and road entries to check all poultry transported on trucks.

The country has put a huge amount of human and material resources into taking preventative measures. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Forestry Administration have set up monitoring networks on separate fronts.

The State Forestry Administration started to establish 118 monitoring centers for wild animal epidemics on April 1, and now has received over 480 pieces of relevant information from local departments, said Cao Qingyao, spokesman for the administration.

Once an abnormal death of a wild animal is found, the monitoring center will collect samples for further examination and report the case to the relevant departments immediately. The administration recently sent three panels to China's provinces with the most migratory birds for on-the-spot research and inspection.

(See page 2 for related stories)



A local health staff disinfects the vehicles coming in and out of Shefu Town in Hunan Province's Xiangtan County, as a part of the effort to control the bird flu, where 545 chickens and ducks died from the H5N1 strain of bird flu. Xinhua Photo

11 killed in Amsterdam airport fire



A fire raged for three hours early yesterday in a prison complex at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, killing 11 illegal immigrants and injuring 15 other people. The identities and nationalities of the dead are unknown. Officials declined to respond to reports that the fire may have been set by one of the prisoners and that the cells were unsafe. An unknown number of detainees escaped during the fire. Here passengers leave the airport, passing the burning building.

Xinhua Photo

Yale addresses complaints of discrimination against Chinese students

By Annie Wei

The controversy over discrimination complaints came to an end at Yale after the university agreed to allow Chinese student Han Xuemei to keep her PhD program.

Han, a PhD student in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at Yale, was the focus of the complaint.

Three months ago, Han's administrators told her that her department's funding had been cut and she must leave the university at the end of the year because she was not in a good academic standing. However, Han said she passed all her exams and met all necessary requirements.

Last Thursday, the Graduate Employees and Students Organization (GESO), which has tried unsuccessfully for years to unionize the graduate students at Yale, organized a rally and a group of Chinese students to file a petition at the Yale authority, accusing some school departments of discrimination against Chinese students.

The complaint also alleged that four Chi-

nese students were mistreated. It asked Yale to establish a third-party board to settle graduate student disputes, a repeated demand in GESO's quest for union recognition.

According to the GESO, more than 300 graduate students from the school signed the petition, including a majority of the 274 Chinese graduate scholars on campus.

The *New York Times* and local TV and newspapers ran stories on the situation.

Han's situation is not the only case of its kind for Chinese students at Yale, said Cong Huang, president of the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars at Yale. "In my first two years in Yale, I have seen six similar cases," Huang said. "Five are Chinese and one Korean."

Huang said that there were three basic standards to determine good academic standing: school grades, qualifying exams and research work.

"Han has no problem with her grades, she passed the qualifying exams, and published her research articles," Huang said. "If the school department cannot give fair reasons for her academic standing status, it's discrimination."

Tom Conroy, deputy director from the Yale Office of Public Affairs said this week that Yale had a policy of protecting students' privacy, they did not disclose the details of a student grievance. However, he could say that the University had responded positively to the concerns expressed by Han, "She is now in the process of transferring to the PhD program in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies."

Conroy also said that the Dean of the Graduate School would investigate the concerns registered by several other students, but gave no response recognizing the GESO.

Income tax threshold to be doubled

By Zhou Ying

Legislators have approved a new threshold for monthly personal income tax. It is set to rise from 800 yuan to 1,600 yuan, a move that will take effect next year.

The revised Personal Income Tax Law approved by the current session of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC) stipulates that citizens earning less than 1,600 yuan a month will not be required to pay income tax.

The new threshold was lower than expected. However, Lou Jiwei, vice minister of Chinese Ministry of Finance explained at the following news conference that 1,600 cut off was the most appropriate number.

Lou added that the State Treasury would lose 28 billion yuan a year with the implementation of the new policy. However the country could afford to raise the threshold, and efforts to collect tax from high-income groups would be intensified.

The 800 yuan threshold was set in 1993, when only one per cent the population earned more than 800 yuan per month. However, in 2002, 52 percent of the population's income exceeded the 800 yuan per month mark.

The central authorities have started to use taxation as a tool to achieve the goal of building a "harmonious society," added Lou.

This is only the first step, he said, more measures will follow, such as the adoption of an inheritance tax.

A green roof, a greener life

By Annie Wei

The local government is planning to make Beijing greener by planting trees and grass on roof tops.

In 2005, Beijing Municipal Government has invested 26 million yuan on building roofs with a total of 130,000 square meters. Han Lili, a senior engineer from Beijing Institute of Landscape & Gardening said that the 130,000-square-meter roof project would be finished by the end of October. Han is supervising the project's technology.

After four years of research and development, the requirements for roof planting have been met, Li Lianlong, an engineer from the same institute said.

According to Li, roofs suitable for planting have to have different

layers, including a water-proof and protection layer, heat-insulator, draining panel and filter.

"The technology on these layers is complicated. Some important characteristics are rain water collection to reduce water waste, and water release so it can get rid excess water to make sure everything together is within the weight limit" said Li.

"The cost per square meter is from 200 to 500 yuan, depending on what kind of plants you use," Li said, "A lawn is usually cheaper, but



A green roof constructed by Beijing Institute of Landscape & Gardening.

Photo by Li Lianlong

trees will be expensive." Considering the limited weight that the roof can bear, Li suggests that trees should not be taller than four meters.

Currently, only state-owned institutes or companies are included in the 130,000-square-meter roof, Li said, "And the government subsidy for each square meter is 200

yuan in 2005." The first green roof in Beijing's commercial building is the Great Wall Sheraton.

Real estate developers, like Jinggangguoji in the southeast and Tonghuijiayuan in the northeast have contacted the Beijing Institute of Landscape & Gardening for green-roof technology to add more value to their properties, Li said.

Green roofs can not only cool the building in the summer, but also serve as a secondary measure for the city's green plan. "Based on our tests, the temperature of the apartment with a green roof can decrease by 2.6 degrees in summer," Han, the senior engineer from the institute said.

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Beijing on alert for bird flu

By Jackie Zhang

As a part of the capital's efforts in the prevention of the bird flu, which has been reported in three provinces, the Beijing Municipal Center for Disease Control has stored 30 tons of bleaching powder, 200 boxes of disinfectant tablets, 5,000 exposure suits and 20,000 respirators in case urgent disinfection needed.

The authority has strengthened the supervision and control at the border of the city and forbidden the entry of birds and related products from epidemic-stricken areas into Beijing; started observing migrant birds; started disinfecting migrant bird habitats; and have the poultry farms near migrant bird habitats,

operating in a closed fashion.

The Beijing Municipal Health Bureau will cooperate closely with the agricultural department in preventing and controlling bird flu in the city. If a bird flu case appears in Beijing, they will adopt measures such as quarantining related areas, destroy infected animals, and disinfect the area.

In order to control infection among animals, and to reduce the possibility of human contraction due to physical contact, the government will enhance the management strength of bird markets and establish a center to destroy the birds in the city. If the bird flu attacks the city, all live bird markets will be closed.

Other measures include inoculating those who work in the transportation, killing, breeding, and selling of birds and assisting the agricultural and forestry departments to expand the observation of migrant birds.

Since the end of last year, Beijing Municipal Health Bureau has established 49 observation points in the city which include: large shopping centers, feed lots, slaughterhouses, and large livestock and bird trading markets.

The Beijing Industry and Commerce Departments have started comprehensive examinations of Beijing bird and livestock markets. The live animals sold in the markets should come from non-epi-

demic-stricken areas and should have quarantine documents.

In addition, the industry and commerce departments will print informative materials and give trainings to management staff and merchants in the markets jointly with agricultural and health departments.

Currently, the Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Department has developed its emergency plan in case there is a Beijing outbreak.

The Beijing Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Department will require people from bird flu stricken countries or areas to make health declarations. The department will also disinfect loading containers from epidemic-stricken areas.

Highlights of Beijing's new Five-Year Plan

By Annie Wei

Beijingers will have higher living standards and more money to spend and social security will be introduced to rural areas. Beijing is going to become a metropolis with higher living standards. According to Beijing's city planning, Beijing will have eleven satellite cities with fresh air and nice environments.

Beijing Municipal Committee has approved its new five-year plan this week, a response aimed at reaching the goals of the 11th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development.

According to the plan's outline, Beijing will accelerate its economic development. 'In the next five years, Beijing's GDP should grow at an annual rate of 9 percent, on average. And local GDP per capital in 2010 should double that of 2000,' according to the plan.

This means, Beijing's GDP per capital in 2010 will reach US\$5000 to 5600 since the 2000 GDP reached US\$2500 to 2800.

The plan says that Beijing should speed up to transform the economic growth patterns, reduce energy consumption per unit of GDP by 25 percent compared with that in 2005, and adopt energy-saving technologies. The transformation includes ensuring that the growth is more evenly distributed across the region.

Hen Meng, a researcher from the Institute of Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Science said rapid industrial expansion has exacerbated a critical shortage of water in many cities, and worsened environmental damage. Fortunately, the new plan notes healthy growth of GDP should come with a decrease of energy consumption.

Resources have been the bottlenecked with Beijing's development, Han explained. As a big city -with an over 13 million population, water, electricity, and gas are essential. However, the shortage of these resources is becoming a key problem for Beijing's development. Therefore, energy-saving, environment-protection, and new economic growth patterns are interconnected.

The main difficulties for the transformation of economic growth patterns lie in all areas from manufacturing, consumption and lifestyle, as well as citizens' awareness and consciousness. Meanwhile, how to carry out all of these changes becomes complicated and difficult, Han said.

The recycling of water, city planning, industry re-structuring, and environmental awareness connection to economic growth patterns, and Beijing's Olympics in 2008 are all embodied in the new plan. It also includes improvements in education and public health, as well as furthering its open-up policy. According to the plan; 'during the next five years, books and accommodation fees should be free in nine-year compulsory education and the government will give subsidies to students with financial difficulties.

In rural areas, the social security system will be introduced and a medical insurance system be set up. Liu Longti, vice chief from the Bureau of Labor Protection said that their goal was to make sure over 60 percent of low income residents in Beijing have social insurance before 2010.

World communities make efforts to control bird flu

By Chu Meng

The EU said the dangerous H5N1 strain of bird flu had been found in Croatia, while authorities said a second parrot that died in quarantine in Britain was also infected with the virus. Croatia is the latest European nation to report a case of H5N1 as it moves west. It was discovered earlier in Romania, Turkey, Greece and Russia.

A British lab tested samples from six swans found dead last week in a nature park confirmed the Croatian case. Member States endorsed a draft Commission decision to ban imports from third world countries of captive live birds, other than poultry for commercial purposes, at a meeting of the EU-based Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

These measures aim to strengthen the EU's defenses against bird flu. A separate decision regulates the movement of birds accompanying their owners, which will be subject to certain conditions.

Preliminary tests conducted on three people who returned to the Indian Ocean French island of La Reunion after a trip to Thailand indicated they might have the H5N1

strain. They had visited a bird park in Thailand and come into close contact with birds, French Health Ministry spokeswoman, Helene Monard, said.

"Whilst it is unlikely that H5N1 could be passed on to humans by raw meat or eggs, cooking food properly would inactivate the virus and eliminate this potential risk," said the European Food Safety Authority. "The virus is hard for humans to contract, and most of the 62 people in Asia who have died from the disease since 2003 were poultry farmers directly infected by sick birds."

Meanwhile, health ministers from 30 countries gathered in Ottawa in order to keep all countries informed on the seriousness and latest developments in the bird flu epidemic, and said all countries have to plan to fight a possible human flu pandemic.

Li Zhongyu, WHO senior official stated at the conference "the virus of H5N1 is extremely active, and has huge possibility to mutate into the human-to-human infection form. We hope that all the countries should set out large scale precautionary preparation and emergency warning systems."



A Croatian health staff member destroys an infected chicken.

Xinhua Photo

Q & A

Q: What are the symptoms of bird flu in humans?

A: Although the exact incubation period for bird flu in humans has not yet been established, the illness seems to develop within one to five days of exposure. Symptoms may initially be similar to those of ordinary flu, and include fever, cough, sore throat and muscle aches. Eye infections may occur. People with H5N1 may develop severe complications, particularly pneumonia and acute respiratory distress, the most common cause of death from the disease. At this point, it is believed to have killed more than 60 people, the majority in Vietnam, since 2002.

Supreme Court revokes death penalty approval right

By Annie Wei

The Supreme Court will no longer permit provincial courts to review death sentences to ensure that capital punishment sentences are handed down meticulously and fairly, according to the court's reform program.

According to the law, the Supreme Court must approve executions before being carried out. However, to facilitate swift punishment for criminals captured during the country's 1983

"Strike Hard" anti-crime campaign, an exception was made so that violent felons could be put to death with the approval of provincial-level "higher people's courts".

Chief Justice Xiao Yang, also president of the Supreme People's Court, told legislators that the Supreme Court and the country's provincial courts have exercised their right to review death sentences submitted by local courts with care.

Since 2003, the Supreme Court has rejected 7 percent of the death sentences, ordering a retrial for the lack of sufficient evidence, and changed 22 percent of the death verdicts to death with retrieval or life imprisonment, said Xiao, without giving the exact number of such sentences.

Meanwhile, provincial courts have thrown out 4.5 percent of death sentence verdicts for lack of sufficient evidence, and revised 38 percent of the

verdicts to lesser punishments, he said.

Several wrongful death sentences exposed this year have prompted legal professionals to think twice about the death penalty system. Many of them are calling for the Supreme Court to rescind the provincial tribunals' right of review. A man convicted of murdering his wife in Hubei Province was very lucky when his "dead" wife emerged. The case prompted a national uproar.

State to survey its labor force

By Qiu Jiaoning

The state will conduct its first labor force survey next month, which is expected to unveil the accurate unemployment rate for the first time. Until now, millions of unemployed from the rural areas were not included.

Currently, the unemployment rate released by the government only bases its figures on the number of individuals registered with related government departments, and experts says these figures are apparently lower than the actual number individuals

According to Wu Chunxian, director of the Department of Statistics of the Beijing Municipal Bureau, the current method of counting the unemployed fails to count anyone who fails to register, especially millions of rural migrants who look for work in big cities. However, it has been in use for more than ten years.

Wu said the labor force survey is going to adopt a new method in line with international standards, which is expected to cover more people, such as migrant laborers. The results of the survey will be unveiled in the latter half of 2006.

The survey will be conducted along with the One Percent Population Census, starting from November 1. This census is conducted every ten years.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Security reported a 4 percent registered urban unemployment rate by the end of September, showing that an additional 8.1 million urban people found jobs in the first nine months of this year.

New rules for individual overseas investment

By Chu Meng

Local citizens will be allowed to set up overseas special propose vehicles (SPVs), by using domestic assets, for the purpose of fund-raising and making a return investment on the Chinese mainland.

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) issued a regulation that will come into effect on November 1, aiming to encourage and guide the development of the non-state sector. The regulation hopes to further improve the policy support system for venture capital, and to regulate cross-border capital transactions by local citizens through SPV-based fund-raising and investment activities.

Chen Zinuo, attorney, Jun He Law Offices explained "China's private enterprises once had an indirect channel to list overseas by first registering an offshore shell company, and then using various meth-

ods to transfer domestic assets to those offshore companies."

She continued stating that such shell companies, often know as red chips, could then list in overseas markets.

However, regulators in January and April published two sets of new rules, including a provision requiring citizens to win approval from the regulatory board and other restrictions, effectively blocking this route.

The rules, officially aimed at preventing illegal foreign exchange outflow, as the country's yuan currency is not freely convertible, were met with strong resistance from venture capitalists, who rely heavily on overseas initial public offerings to cash out of their successful investments.

The revised rules re-open a direct channel, but require such offshore companies to transfer income back to the mainland within 180 days after it is earned. Moreover, the change also eliminates a loophole in regulations that made it difficult for regulators to monitor cross-border capital flows.

Pudong to test forex management reform

By Chu Meng

Pilot reforms for the management of foreign exchange of multinational corporations will be implemented first in the Pudong New Area in Shanghai.

China's foreign exchange regulator, the State Administration of Foreign Exchanges (SAFE), made the announcement on Sunday.

According to SAFE, regional headquarters of multinational companies that have set up financial centers in Pudong are allowed to open accounts in domestic banks. This will help them to consolidate the management of the foreign exchange of both their overseas and domestic subsidiaries.

The reform relaxes the limit on forex fund outflows of Chinese-funded multinationals, so as to encourage the overseas investment of Chinese companies. It also simplifies the procedures for forex payment, which will help qualified corporations to enter the inter-bank forex market.

Zhang Xuebing, director-general of the Pudong New Area said, "The experimental move is actually aiming at paving a new way of self-management of those transnational corporations in the zone. And the first 15-year-plan since the establishment of our special economic zone in 1991 is going to cease by the end of this year. It means the central government will not continue to offer favorable policies nor taxation deduction to transnational corporations. Therefore, we have to find a sustainable development plan in the new phase starting next year."

SAFE says it will improve these multinationals' foreign exchange management evaluating and monitoring system. The pilot reform follows the principles of "independent initiative, controllability and gradual progress".

Among the 60 regional headquarters in Pudong, six are headquarters for China, and 10 are headquarters for the Asia-Pacific region. The reform will help build a sound environment for international investors.

Weekly Review – World

Bush nominates
Bernanke to lead
Fed

Ben Bernanke (R) followed by Alan Greenspan (L), walks out of the Oval Office after being nominated by President George W. Bush to be Federal Reserve chairman.

Photo by ImagineChina

President George W. Bush on Monday nominated White House economic adviser Ben Bernanke to succeed Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Greenspan, 79, is set to step down on January 31 after more than 18 years at the helm of the US central bank.

Bernanke, 51, is chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. He has long advocated setting formal targets for inflation to help guide monetary policy, a position Greenspan has long opposed.

Bernanke must still be approved by the US Senate for the top Fed job.

– Reuters

Fallen Marconi sells
assets to Ericsson

British telecoms equipment maker, Marconi, a victim of the high-tech bubble, agreed to sell most of its assets to Swedish rival Ericsson for about US\$2.12 billion (17.14 billion yuan) in cash.

Ericsson said later that it planned to cut up to a fifth of the 6,500-strong workforce it would inherit, implying 1,300 job losses.

– AFP

Stora to cut 2,000
jobs and 10 mills

Stora Enso Oyj, the world's biggest papermaker, said it will cut 2,000 jobs and dispose of 10 mills to reduce costs and curb production capacity after third-quarter profit dropped 49 percent.

Stora, based in Helsinki, will close mills in France, Sweden, Finland and the US and seek to sell six others as it wipes out 400,000 tons of excess output. The future of four other plants is under review, the company said yesterday.

“Stora is facing rising input costs, structural overcapacity and increased competition,” the company said in a stock-exchange statement.

– Bloomberg

Intel shifts plans for
server chips

Facing strong competition from rival Advanced Micro Devices Inc., chipmaker Intel Corp. has modified its plans for upcoming server microprocessors, starting in 2007.

Intel said it has canceled a Xeon processor that was scheduled to be released in 2007 and will replace it with another that improves communication with other chips in the system. The new chip, code-named Tigerton, is set to be released in 2007.

– AP

Smoking ban in
England will exempt
some pubs, clubs

Smoking will be banned in offices, restaurants and pubs serving food in England from mid-2007 under a bill to be published by UK Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt.

Pubs that don't serve food and private members clubs will both be exempted from the ban.

Hewitt's bill was introduced to Parliament in London yesterday, and lawmakers will get their first chance to debate it in about two weeks.

– Bloomberg

Edited by Qiu Jiaoning /
Grace Wei

China Construction Bank
trading on HK stock exchange

By Chu Meng

Shares of China Construction Bank (CCB) began trading on the Hong Kong stock exchange yesterday. The share price reached HK\$2.375 (2.477 yuan) at the start of trading, slightly higher than the initial public offering price of HK\$2.35 (2.450 yuan).

The trading volume reached to HK\$5.69 billion (5.93 billion

yuan), accounting for about 40 percent of the total volume on that day.

CCB Chairman Guo Shuqing said he was satisfied with the performance.

The bank's IPO of HK\$62.2 billion (64.860 billion yuan) is the biggest in the world this year and also the largest

ever in Hong Kong. The bank sold 26.48 billion so-called H

shares through a global offering. Stocks in Chinese companies, which are listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange, are called H shares.

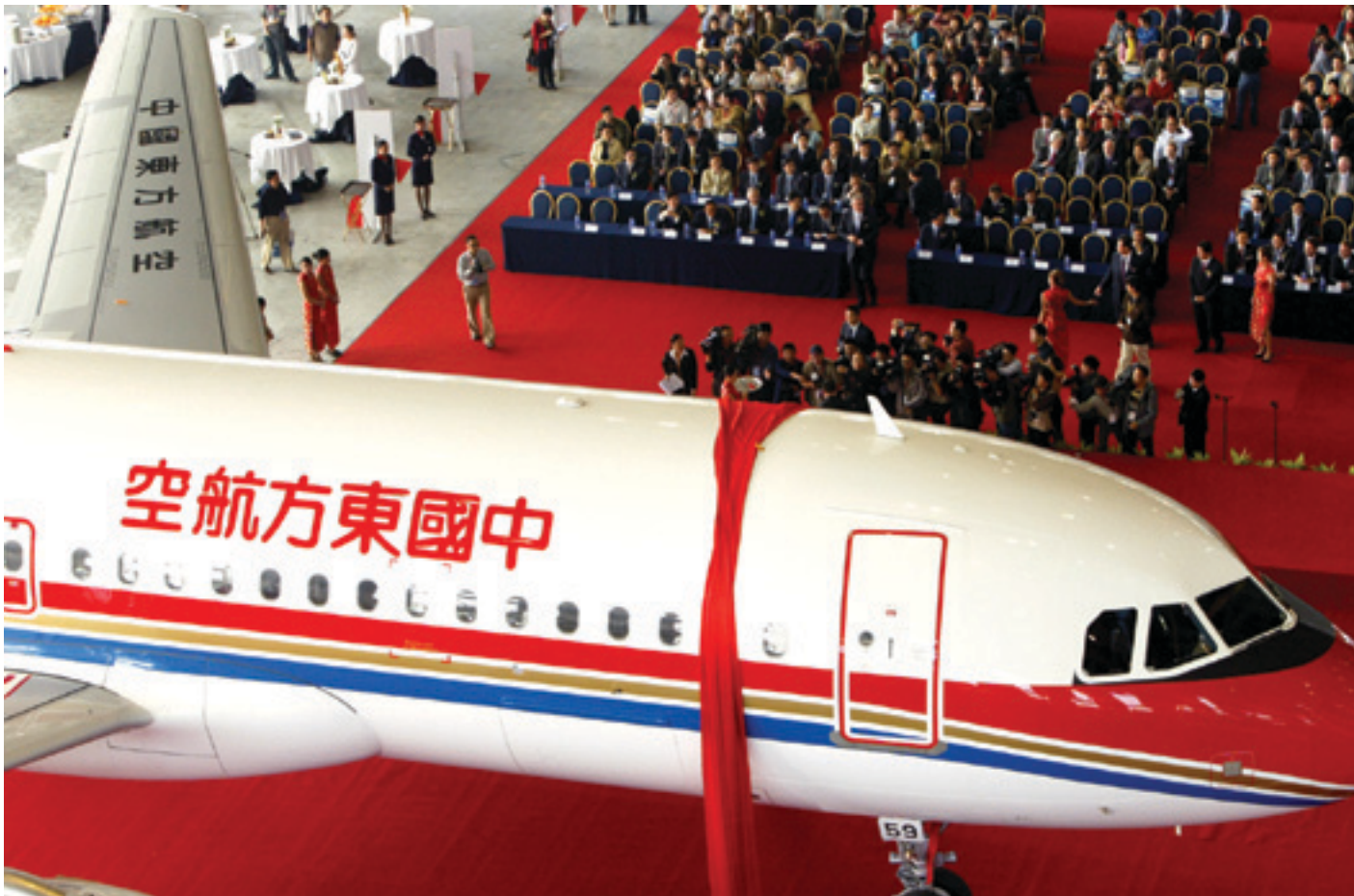
The public tranche of its IPO attracted bids for 43 times the stock up for sale. The international tranche was also very significantly oversubscribed, though the bank did not give details.



CCB Chairman Guo Shuqing waves at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Photo by ImagineChina

Eastern Airlines welcomes its 100th Airbus



An Airbus and China Eastern Airlines ceremony held yesterday to celebrate the later's import of the 100th Airbus plane. By June 2005, only 191 of the 826 aircrafts being used on the Chinese mainland were made by Airbus.

Photo by ImagineChina

AMD expands its reach in China

By Qiu Jiaoning

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), the No. 2 maker of personal-computer processors, announced a deal to license its x86 Geode microprocessor design technology to the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Peking University on Tuesday.

The deal, part of a larger push by the company into the Chinese market, will focus on exploring ways to speed up the chip while keeping power consumption at less than a watt. The deal allows Chinese development of low-power and embedded computer applications for the commercial and consumer sectors.

“Products based on this x86 processor represent an energy-efficient, industry-standard technology that can fundamentally transform the productivity of businesses and individuals in China,” said Ma Songde, Vice Minister of MOST.

Under the terms of the agreement, MOST will facilitate discussions between AMD and Chinese companies receiving access to x86 technology licenses. AMD will earn revenue from licensing the AMD Geode



Hector Ruiz (center), President and CEO of AMD, and two Chinese representatives hit a drum during an agreement signing ceremony in Beijing.

processor to commercial entities designated by Peking University and MOST.

In addition, AMD will have access to intellectual property derived from the licensed technology and options to invest in businesses that emerge from development of AMD Geode processor-based technology in China.

“With this technology transfer, AMD's Chinese partners will be able to dedicate their own research and development capabilities to achieve breakthroughs and innovations in x86 technologies and ultimately

na. The company's investments in China also include US\$100 million (808 million yuan) to expand testing and manufacturing facilities.

On Monday, AMD relocated its Greater China regional headquarters to Zhongguancun Science Park. AMD said that it will conduct engineering, marketing, and sales activities at the new regional headquarters.

In September 2004, AMD formed its Greater China headquarters in Beijing. Most of China's key IT companies, such as Lenovo, Dawning, Thunis, Hassee, Flocity and Zhongke Menglan, have entered into strategic partnerships with AMD.

AMD has 16.2 percent of the worldwide x86 chip market, but it could have as much as an 18 percent share in China, based on AMD's focus on low-cost PCs. Rival chipmaker Intel essentially controls the remainder of the x86 market, with an 82.2 percent worldwide market share. AMD's aspirations in China are aggressive, as the company has said it wants 30 percent market share in China within two or three years.

Photo by ImagineChina

Amway releases new direct selling structure

By Chu Meng

The world's leading retail giant, Amway, has released a new plan to carry out direct selling in China. Amway has abandoned its now illegal pyramid selling structure, which the country's commercial regulator banned in September.

Direct selling involves selling goods face-to-face, away from traditional retail outlets.

Yuan Li, chief external officer of Amway China Company said, “We will firstly dismiss the position of Sales Manag-

er, which was the secondary layer of the selling body of the pyramid structure. Secondly, we will establish a single-layer personnel structure and implement a correspondingly single-layer payment model, in order to be in accordance with the government's direct selling law.”

In place from November 1, the new plan will pay allowances to the dismissed sales managers, and arrange for them either to become practical sellers, or do administrative work

for the company. Meanwhile, the company will raise the highest bonus ratio of selling personnel from the previous 24 percent to 30 percent.

“The move is going to rule out the possibility of multi-layered selling structures, and to stimulate the selling body's stability and motivation,” said Yuan. Amway is planning to expand its production capacity to 25 billion yuan (US\$3 billion) at the beginning 2006 in China, taking advantage of the booming direct-selling indus-

try. However, no detailed reform regulations have yet been released.

She also said that besides increasing its production capacity, the company would open between 40 and 50 new stores in China this year in addition to its current 140. Nutrilite, a brand in Amway's nutrition food series, continues to play an important role, while Artistry, a brand for skincare products and cosmetics, will have a greater presence in Amway's brand-building efforts in China.

Weekly Review – Nation

CNPC wins
battle over
PetroKazakhstan

By Qiu Jiaoning

China National Petroleum Corporation's (CNPC) acquisition of PetroKazakhstan, through its wholly-owned subsidiary CNPC International (CNPCI), has been formally approved by a Canadian court.

CNPC's US\$4.18 billion (33.75 billion yuan) takeover of Calgary-based firm PetroKazakhstan deals a blow to its Russian rival Lukoil.

Carlyle seals deal
to buy China's top
machine maker

By Qiu Jiaoning

Carlyle Group said on Tuesday it had agreed to buy 85 percent of Xugong Group Construction Machinery for US\$375 million (3.02 billion yuan), sealing one of the country's largest private equity transactions ever.

Volkswagen to
introduce new
models

By Qiu Jiaoning

German-based Volkswagen AG plans to introduce 10 to 12 new models in China by 2009 for the purpose of cutting costs and regaining its eroded market share. One of the new models will enter the Chinese market by the end of November.

Volkswagen, together with its two Chinese joint venture partners: Shanghai Volkswagen and Changchun-based FAW Volkswagen, will launch a program named Olympic to regroup its operations and make further differentiation of products.

Toyota planning
new China car plant
in mid-2007

By Qiu Jiaoning

Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. plans to set up a new car factory in Tianjin with local partner FAW Group. They will build around 200,000 compact cars a year starting mid-2007.

The plant will be the third for Tianjin FAW Toyota Motor Co. The joint venture will produce the Vios, Corolla, Crown and Reiz models.

Hutchison
Whampoa, Cheung
Kong jointly enter
Beijing property
industry

By Han Manman

Public viewings of the first houses in 'Greenwich Village', the first residential building project developed by Hutchison Whampoa and Cheung Kong Holdings in Beijing, began on Wednesday.

Located near the East Fourth Ring Road, the site is approximately 270,000 square meters. This 'Boutique Residence' style village is comprised of around 2,000 low-density luxury houses. The project will be developed in three phases and is targeted for completion in 2007.

Jason K.Y. Tam, GM of Hutchison Whampoa Properties Ltd., revealed the expected selling price will be around 9,000 yuan (US\$1,115) per square meter.

Tyco International
opens Beijing HQ

By Grace Wei

Tyco International, the world's leading manufacturing conglomerate of fire and security equipment, electronic parts, water treatment and healthcare products, has launched its China headquarters in Beijing.

The company has recruited 31,000 employees in China, compared with 250,000 globally. Its investment in the country has hit US\$500 million (4.0 billion yuan).

Tyco established its Clinical Training Center in Shanghai earlier this year where they will train over 1,000 medical professionals annually starting from next year.

ThyssenKrupp



ThyssenKrupp: 145 years in China

Alfred Wewers, CEO of ThyssenKrupp (China) Limited

By Liu Zhaoxi

ThyssenKrupp began business in China in the 1860s and established a representative office in Beijing in 1982. The merger between two famous old German companies: Thyssen and Krupp, was a milestone in its development in China. This led to the establishment of a holding company in Beijing in August.

Q: Why did ThyssenKrupp set up a holding company in China?

A: Largely because of the company's expansion in China over the years.

ThyssenKrupp started production in China in the 1990s, and so far has set up joint ventures or fully owned production plants in steel, automotive, elevator, technologies and services, in more than ten cities including Shanghai, Dalian, Xuzhou, Changchun and Wuhan.

All these businesses performed well last year. The company's sales with China have increased rapidly and reached more than 1 billion euros (97.62 billion yuan) in the 2003-2004 fiscal year (ranging from October 2003 to September 2004). This is a figure that in the future will significantly increase because we have plans to improve and expand here. The board decided to establish the holding company to match the expansion of our business in China and have more ThyssenKrupp companies to come.

As a holding company, we're allowed to do more than a representative office. We want to use that to make our name and our ethics better known in China.

This year it is one of the main tasks for the group in China to tell people more about the entire group, which has more than 800 companies around the world and 27 in China, with more to come.

Q: Why choose Beijing to base the holding company?

A: As the nation's capital, Beijing provides convenient access to the central government and its ministries, which the company needs to deal with while doing business.

Q: What did ThyssenKrupp achieve last year?

A: Currently, the biggest investment project of ThyssenKrupp in China is Shanghai Krupp Stainless Co. (SKS), a joint venture (60:40) with BaoSteel Pudong Iron & Steel Company, producing cold rolled stainless steel. In the last fiscal year, ThyssenKrupp finished the second phase of the investment program – more than US\$1.4 billion (11.3 billion yuan).

Last year was the second year for carbon steel production in Dalian, which started to run at full capacity. And in December, a new auto supplies plant held its opening ceremony in Wuhan. We're going to establish even more.

We have a lot of things in the start-up phase. For SKS in Shanghai, in the last fiscal year we doubled our capacity through the second phase of investment.

In sum, the local production was stable at about 400 million euros (3.9 billion yuan) in the last fiscal year, but new investments last year are expected to boost sales in coming years.

Q: What's the company's strategy for China?

A: We will continue to improve or expand our business activities in China. We'll expand service business in the elevator segment, which will provide maintenance of elevators installed by the company. There are strict regulations in Western countries requiring elevator manufacturers to check and maintain on a regular basis, and also the regulations are becoming stricter in China. Requirements will improve and our company is ready to bring more services to take care of its new elevator installations in the country's ever-growing skyscrapers.

Q: What are your expectations for China's performance under WTO Rules?

A: It is understandable that China's 'opening' under the WTO agreements is a process where results cannot be achieved immediately, because of differences in the political and economic systems. So both sides have to learn. According to the agreement, China is expected to adapt to WTO rules by 2006. The Western world will have a close look at China's performance in this regard. If China wants to join the club, it has to play by the same rules. That must be the goal and it requires some learning. Western countries know and understand that it takes time for China to adapt to a market economy.

Q: What do you think of China's performance so far and what needs to be done?

A: We have already seen great progress in China's adapting to the new rules. But there is more to do. Protecting intellectual property rights for example. Also, understanding of contract and working with contracts between Chinese and international businesses should be more equal than it is now. There are still differences in such understanding, which undermines the common basis for both sides to do business.

Q: What will be the new opportunities for you?

A: Now we are looking for opportunities in other businesses. The elevator segment produces elevators, escalators, walk ways, accessibilities and airport passenger boarding and so on. Here, we can offer the whole product range to venues like stadiums, subway stations and airports. So we think there will be a good chance for our company.

Born in 1948, Alfred Wewers joined the German Air Force in 1967 when he was 19 years old.

In 1974, he joined Thyssen-Hütte AG, Duisburg (later Thyssen AG) as Junior Manager of the Economics Department.

From 1987 to 2003 he worked as Head of Corporate Communication and Central Bureau in Thyssen Industrie AG, Essen (now ThyssenKrupp Technologies AG).

He came to Beijing in October 2003 as Chief Representative of ThyssenKrupp AG, Representative Office, Beijing.

In July 2005, he was named President & CEO of ThyssenKrupp (China) Ltd..

Photo by Li Shuzhuan



China's first maglev train, which was built in cooperation with Siemens AG, ThyssenKrupp AG and the German government. Test operations started at the end of 2002 from Shanghai's Pudong International Airport to the city center.



ThyssenKrupp's Elevator segment: on the up.

Photos by ImagineChina

Do obituaries scare you?

By Zhou Ying

The obituary page, a popular page in western newspapers, is all but dead in the Chinese newspaper which launched the first obituary page here.

The *Beijing News* launched the first Chinese obituary page in March this year to enlarge its market. However the page now is lingering on the edge of failure.

"We intended to do two full obituary pages at first. However, the lack of sources and misunderstanding from the public really blocked us," said Wang Hai, editor of the obituary page.

Netor.com, the first online memorial in the world for people to commemo-

rate the dead was the main source for the obituary page.

Lack of understanding

The *Beijing News* journalist Tang Yang, said that they first checked the recent deaths on the website, and then tried to contact with the relatives through the staff from website.

"We can email the relatives, informing them that journalists want to interview them to write a memorial article for the dead. However, more than five percent of our consumers declined to cooperate," Wang Xiaoyan, director of public relation department of the website said.

Wang said the lack of understanding of the function of obituaries is part of the problem. People always wonder

why their private matters need to be released to the public.

"It is easy to understand that people dislike talking about their sadness to others, let alone the press," Wang said.

Tang Yang added that timing also made the interview process difficult. "Since the news should be up to date, we have to contact the families of those who died in the last two weeks. Therefore, the relatives always reject us because they have not gotten through the bitterness yet," Tang explained.

While the newspaper only released obituaries on Beijing residents it was still too much for the newspaper's readership to handle.

Tan Juan, a Beijing resident said

that she never paid attention to the obituary page because she did not care about news about the dead. "People that they mentioned in the articles were total strangers to me, and I could not get any useful information from that kind of news," she added.

Amy Zhang, an assistant editor of a fashion magazine said that the obituary page seemed strange to her. "The main reason for my reading is for pleasure, therefore I really do not want to read sad articles, especially about death," she said.

Controversy

Though the obituary is still controversial in China, *The Beijing News* has set an example for other media outlets. *Nanfang Daily* and *Business News*

in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, gradually followed suit in May and August.

Wang Weiming, a professor from the journalism department of the Communication University of China thinks that *The Beijing News* has played a leading role in the development of Chinese paper media.

"I believe that the obituary page, not only can become a new way to raise profits for the newspaper, it also provides a meaningful way to commemorate the dead," he added.

He said even though readers do not know the deceased they could learn by the experiences of others. "It can enlarge the readers' concept of life," he explained.

Loved by Americans

An investigation conducted by Wang showed that the obituaries are the favorite page among American readers, besides the political news. The obituary news emerged in the 1970s in western countries.

Ralph Jennings, a western journalist admitted that almost every paper has a page or a column of obits. Families of the deceased pay for death notices to let distant friends and acquaintances know about the death.

"Relatives of the dead like the obits because it gives anyone in the community a chance to donate flowers or view the dead person's casket before the funeral," he added.

"At the papers where I worked, news interns would write obituaries. This task gives them practice doing tough interviews – with grieving relatives of the deceased – and making sure everything they write is accurate. If an obituary contains a factual mistake, the family of the deceased gets mad and yells at the newspaper editor," Ralph explained.

Future

Though the task of making the obituary page accepted in China is tough, *The Beijing News* still feels optimistic about its future. "We have received several letters from readers giving us advice on how to make the obituary page better, and I believe that once the readers are aware of how sincere we are, they will accept it in the near future," Wang Hai finally said.

K. Scott Rosenberg, CCI Business Development Manager, said, "I think launching an obituary is an important step towards 'legitimizing' the news in China. Again, since SARS, Chinese media has gone through amazing growth in reporting not only the good but also 'actual' news, which may be negative."

"Personally, I see the obituaries as natural as listing any other kind of news; for example, on Tuesday Rosa Parks died. She played such an important role in the US civil rights movement and with the announcement of her death, we all remember how far we have come and still have to go in eliminating prejudices," said Rosenberg.

"Furthermore, people who believe obituaries will bring bad luck should not even be reading the newspaper. There's enough bad news in the world reported in papers about terrorist bombings and natural disasters to fuel a lifetime of bad luck. Including obituaries certainly won't add to that."

Julian Rehm of Freudenstadt, Germany, right, photographs the bus that Rosa Parks rode when she refused to yield to a white man a half century ago, at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, Tuesday, October 25.

(AP Photo)



Overseas Perspective

One ordinary woman, one extraordinary legacy

USA Today editorial, October 26

Rosa Parks' name should be familiar to anyone who has taken a history class, but it probably is not. Time erodes memory of even the brightest heroes. More so when their heroism recalls the darkest aspects of our past. That is too bad, because if slavery and segregation betray our willingness to forsake our most basic values – as surely they do – then Parks, who died Monday at age 92, showed the stuff that makes people and nations great.

Courage

Armed only with courage, dignity and determination – and seeking no

personal reward – she insisted on being treated fairly despite laws that mandated she be treated unfairly. And she altered history. For younger Americans, it might be difficult to imagine life 50 years ago in Montgomery, Alabama, and wide swaths of the country. Jim Crow laws required racial separation on buses and trains. Restaurants, hotels and stores were allowed to serve whites only. Schools and colleges were segregated, and those for blacks were often worse than second-class. In the land of the free, liberty and justice were for whites only. Then on Dec. 1, 1955, Parks refused to give up her seat

on a bus to a white man, and everything began to change. She was jailed and fined, and the Montgomery black community's pent-up resentment erupted.

Martin Luther King

What started as a four-day bus boycott went on for more than a year. The boycott's leader, Martin Luther King Jr., was vaulted into national prominence, and led the civil rights movement to triumph a decade later. Other blacks had been arrested, beaten and even killed for doing what Parks did – refusing to kowtow to white bosses, police, bus drivers or thugs. But Parks, a seamstress with no special clout, was

willing to pay the steep personal cost. Death threats forced her to move. But as Parks and others sacrificed for principle, the nation noticed. Segregation ended on Montgomery's buses, and in time the whole ugly system fell.

Freedom

"I'm a person who always wanted to be free and wanted it not only for myself; freedom is for all human beings," Parks told the press in 1995. The history of the past half-century is a story of freedom's expansion for millions, thanks to one ordinary woman – and her extraordinary action. (The above article does not represent the views of *Beijing Today*.)

Poison found in plastic food wrappers

By Zhou Ying

The Chinese quality-control authorities' ban on six plastic companies manufacturing PVC wrappers seems to have ended the week-long controversy on the safety of the product.

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine admitted that some supermarkets used PVC wrappers that contained DEHA to package food. DEHA is a material that can be harmful to health.

An investigation conducted by authorities showed that there are 47 plastic food wrapper factories in China among which, six produced a total of 10,000 tons per year of the PVC wrappers in question.

Liu Zhaobin, the spokesman for the administration revealed that the six companies were

located in Shanghai, Liaoning, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian and Guangdong. "Most of them were foreign companies, but the Chinese brands of the poisonous plastic wrappers were LG, Sangling and Sanrong," Liu added.

Shut down

Ji Zhengkun, director of the administration's department of quality inspection, said that makers found using DEHA in food wrappers will be closed down immediately and ordered to recall all of their products.

DEHA is a plasticizer, which makes the PVC material pliable and was not among the list of 65 kinds of plasticizers banned two years ago. "DEHA could harm human health when it is used to pack fatty food or heated in a microwave," Liu added.

The administration will ban the import and export of PVC

wrappers that fail to meet the national safety standard. "PVC food wrappers will be added to mandatory inspection list in Customs soon," Ji added.

Poison

Yue Ming, a professor at Beijing University of Technology, said that all these plastic food wrappers are poisonous under certain conditions.

"When people use electric heaters to process food wrapped in either PVC, or PVCD and PE films, contaminated elements detrimental to human health leak out," he added.

Consumers are advised to buy plastic food wrappers made of PE, a safe material, or PVC wrappers that do not contain DEHA.

The authority has ordered the supermarkets and shops to withdraw all plastic food wrappers without labels indicating the ma-

terial they are made of and whether they are safe.

Experts warned consumers to check labels carefully before they buy food wrappers. If people buy PVC (without DEHA) wrappers, they should not use it to wrap meat, cooked food or fatty food, or use it in microwave ovens. However, they can be safely used to wrap vegetables or fruits.

Although the authority had already made a clear announcement, Beijing consumers are still concerned.

Feeling unsafe

Zhang Yan, a 30-year-old Beijinger said that she still felt unsafe even using the so-called safe wrappers. "What if the banned companies cheat us to avoid a great loss of profits," she asked.

Li Qiuhua, manager of Jingkelong supermarket Liuli Qiao branch in Xuanwu district, said



The plastic wrappers incident has received nationwide attention.

Photo by CFP

that they had already withdrawn the PVC plastic wrappers last week. However, the incident even makes the safe brands hard to sell.

"Around a hundred plastic food wrappers were sold out every day in the past, now the number is less than ten," she said.

Li said that the supermarket

could guarantee the quality of the plastic wrappers. However, they could not check the plastic wrappers of prepared food, because the food companies purchased them. "I suggest the related department conduct an investigation on companies producing prepared food as the next step," she added.

Beijing sounds broadcast by bike



Volunteers study a map in preparation for broadcasting Beijing's sounds

Photo by Zhang Nan

By Jackie Zhang

Hutong residents were surprised and curious about the bicycles equipped with amplifiers broadcasting the sounds of Peter Cusack cruising through their neighborhood. Many curious and confused people came out to see what was going on.

Volunteers recruited by the British Council rode bicycles equipped with amplifiers in Beijing's hutongs in the Baitasi area, with common sounds produced by Peter Cusack broadcasting through these amplifiers.

This is a part of the "Sound and the City"- an activity held by the British Council, which was reported by Beijing Today last week. Peter Cusack is the third British musician invited by the British Council.

"I'm interested in sounds because

it causes people to have different opinions. Different people like different sounds," said Cusack, "Beijing's sound environment is quite interesting and diversified. There are many unique sounds that I've never heard before in the UK."

After collecting sounds and visiting different places in Beijing, Peter Cusack mixed the sounds by computer. The sounds he collected were varied from ducks to bicycle bells.

While volunteers were riding the bicycles through the lanes, the amplifiers broadcasted these sounds.

"It is interesting," said a hutong resident, "I'm not sure what the sounds are exactly, but I can distinguish some of them are the sounds of pedicabs' bells. Although the musician comes from Britain, he re-

corded the common sounds close to Beijing's people and culture. The sounds are very gentle, which makes people feel comfortable, and are nice to broadcast in quiet lanes."

Eugene Martynec, a musician from Canada took part in the event also. He rode a bicycle together with the volunteers.

"It is great," he said with excitement. "It is interesting to ride bicycles with these sounds broadcasting. People look at us with curiosity."

Martynec also said that in his opinion, Beijing was a noisy city. "The noise pollution is serious here. However, Peter Cusack's sounds give me a different feeling."

Cusack was very satisfied with the activity. "It was nice to see many people take part in riding the bicy-

cles enthusiastically."

He also had some unexpected gains during the activity. He met with a man crying out grinding shears and kitchen knives and two men riding tricycles crying for recycling in a lane. Cusack was excited and took out his recorder and recorded the sounds immediately.

Also as a part of "Sound and the City", Brian Eno, another British musician, installed his sound equipment in Ritan Park last Friday. His sound equipment is at the Ritan circular mound altar, which will broadcast sounds of bells from morning to the evening everyday until November.

"I like parks in Beijing because there are always many old people doing exercise there. While many people prefer to make music for young people, I would like to make music for old people," said Eno.

He said that the Ritan circular mound altar should be one of the quietest places in Beijing. "It is dangerous to add music in a quiet place," said Eno, "Since people like quiet places, the sounds that I make should not break the silence but make it even more still." Thus, he chose to make sounds of bells.

It seems that his choice was correct. When the bell sounds were broadcasted at the altar, many senior citizens enjoyed it very much. A woman relaxing at the altar with her granddaughter expressed that the sounds were very soft and nice.

"The high and low sounds are staggered and are not very strong. It makes me feel comfortable. And the sounds remind me of the bell sounds in temples, which makes people feel tranquil," said Eno.

The forth musician, Clive Bell will reveal his music production this weekend. He has produced CDs recording his rendition of famous Chinese songs. These CDs will be distributed to bars, restaurants and other gathering places early next month.

Kid stylists create fashion for Barbie



Students show their creations.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

By Chu Meng

Chinese elementary students showed off their design skills in a competition to create new fashions for Barbie dolls at the China Children Center.

During the live show, young stylists aged from six to twelve demonstrated their fantastic imaginations by using materials such as old clothing, plastic wrapping, and glass beads. Their works reflected the creative process of these young minds.

35 teams selected from three primary rounds participated in the competition. The competition was sponsored by the Children Working Commission of Haidian, Chaoyang and Fengtai districts.

Dead Sea pool and black-mud bath in the city



Have a quiet rest on water

Photo by Wu Jun

By Xie Xiaolin

Beijing citizens can now experience what it is like to float on the Dead Sea or take a bath in ecological black mud at the city's new SPA center.

Located in the west, "Da Zizai" Healthy SPA Center has invested 20 million yuan to introduce water from Shanxi Yuncheng salt lake to its pool, which contains 5 macro elements (inorganic nutrients), 16 microelements (trace elements), and over 30 minerals.

A one-hour swim is equal to 4 hours of sound sleep, which is helpful for recovery from illnesses, eases tiredness and nurtures people's physical and spiritual health. Then warm black mud embraces the whole body in a wooden bath basin. A 70 minutes session can build up smooth skin. The spacious hall with green plants offers people a quiet rest.

Costs can vary from 400 to 1,000 yuan depending on the treatments.

'Giant' girl recovering from tumor operation



Liu Li and her mother in hospital before the operation

By Jia Ting

A fifteen-year-old 'giant' girl Liu Li (2.08 meters) from Hunan Province had surgery to remove a tumor in an attempt to save her sight.

The operation at the Second Hospital Affiliated into Tsinghua University lasted over eight hours on Monday. Liu Li has to stay in the observation room for another two weeks before doctors can determine if she will regain her sight.

The gigantism little Liu Li suffers from was induced by a pituitary tumor, which caused the unnatural growth. The girl had reached the height of a six-year-old girl when she was only three.

At the age of fourteen, she was already 1.98 meters tall. Her unusual height gained the attention of a basketball coach from Urumqi Sport School. In November 2003, she joined the school. After training for a year she started playing center on a professional basketball team.

In December 2004 Liu Li fainted during a game, and her situation has since deteriorated. Her family could not afford the medical costs and the sickness deprived her of the sight in her right eye and reduced vision in her left eye to a low level.

With the help of Urumqi Sport School, Liu Li was sent to the Second Hospital, who exempted the family from surgery charges. According to the girl's mother, Liu Li was very nervous the night before the surgery and required an anesthesia.

"Liu Li had the Gamma Ray operation before, so this time we only cut out 70-80 percent of the tumor to keep enough of the pituitary to produce sufficient hormones in the future," explained Dr. Cheng Guoqiang, director of Functionality and Microtrauma Neurosurgery Department, who was in charge of Liu Li's operation.

New skeleton discovery in Beijing

By Jia Ting

A well-preserved ancient human skeleton was discovered at Donghulin relic site this week, the third time a complete hominid skeleton has been discovered at the site since 1966.

The site is located beside Donghulin village of Mengtougou District, west of Beijing. This was the home to ancient hominids living 9,000 to 10,000 years ago. Unlike



The skeleton of Donghulin

Photo by Qian Bingge

the previous finds, the skeleton discovered in the tomb this time was bent. Burial objects, such as small stone tools and necklaces made from shells, were also discovered.

"This discovery is very important as it might bring the Donghulin hominids' activity time forward by hundreds or even one thousand years.

The fireplace will provide important clues for the study of even earlier hominids and their relics," Professor Zhao Chaozhong from Archeology Department of Beijing University explained. There is a time interval of several hundred years between the two different civilization levels.

The Archeology and Cultural Heritage Department of Beijing University and Beijing Culture Relic Research Office jointly carried out the onsite research.

Illegal foreign exchange shut down

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Forty-one suspects were arrested and over 35 million yuan seized when three illegal foreign exchange trading companies were shut down this week.

Beijing Police and Beijing Administration of Foreign Exchange (BAFE) have been carrying out operations to end the illegal trade since June last year. BAFE has said this was just the beginning of their operations.

The action is now focused on the area of Yabaolu Market, where a branch of Bank of China is surrounded by many offices of foreign



The seized cash

Photo by Zhang Meirong

companies and enterprises.

The analysis of BAFE shows that there are millions of US dollars traded in the illegal market each day. Illegal foreign exchanging not only disturbs the foreign currency market of China, but also provides an opportunity to launder illegal money.

The operators of these companies are mostly Chinese, with some expatriates also involved. There are two ways to get foreign currencies: one is from the income of the shops in Yabaolu Market; the other is from the office of foreign companies. They usually wander around the area and approach people who intend to change money.

According to the regulation of foreign currencies of China, Chinese residents can not exchange more than ten thousand US dollars worth of foreign currencies without relevant reasons and documentation (such as study abroad or trade.)

This is why people buy foreign currencies from those illegal agents at a higher rate.

According to the suspects, an amount worth under ten thousand US dollars can be exchanged immediately.

Zhengyangmen gets a face lift

By Zhou Ying

Zhengyangmen Gate, located south of Tian'anmen, will renovated and restored for the first time since the foundation of the People's Republic of China.

Zhao Desheng, director of information department of Beijing Landscape Architectural Construction Company, said that their main aim is to restore the gate's original appearance.

Zhengyangmen was repaired in 1915 under the instruction of a German designer, who introduced an occidental style into the ancient Chinese gate, such as the white baso-relievo and marble arches.

"All of these western additions will

be removed from Zhengyangmen. A real ancient gate will be on display to the public in the near future," Zhao said.

Beijing will spend more than nine million yuan on the task. It is estimated that the project will be finished before National Day next year, according to the administration department of Zhengyangmen.

The management office said that they would also mend the six cracks that have appeared since the wall was built over 500 years ago.

Zhao added that all the cement bricks on the ground would be replaced by the same bricks in the wall. "We will try our best to make the ground and wall blend," he explained.



Beijing will spend more than nine million yuan to repair Zhengyangmen.

Photo by Qian Bingge

Replicas of rare treasures on display in Forbidden City

By Zhou Ying

Replicas of more than 20 rare treasures kept at the Forbidden City are on public display at the People's Hall.

Cao Jinglou, director of the Sci-Tech Department of the Cultural Relics Protection of the Forbidden City said the replicas were also very valuable. "The highest price even can reach 198,000 yuan," said Cao.

According to Cao, the origins of those replicas were 14 pieces of

Chinese porcelain, and 10 pieces of enamel. "Nearly all the original treasures were from the Ming and Qing dynasties," Cao added.

The museum press office said that cultural relic experts inspected the whole manufacturing process at the factory to ensure authenticity.

"Usually, the common replicas were made according to the pictures of the treasures, however, the model of our replicas were the real ones," Cao further added.



A beer and a chat: it's a journalist's life.

Journalists increase communication

By Chu Meng

A mini communication party to bring foreign and Chinese journalists together was held in the John Bull Pub, Chaoyang District. Around 30 journalists from America, Britain, France, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, as well as China, socialized and swapped stories.

Ralph Jennings from the Japan United News Agency had worked as a professional journalist for a US-based newspaper for more than eight years. He came to China five years ago to work as a foreign correspondent.

"I primarily came to work here because of the country's exclusive

culture and traditional customs. Later I gradually found that being a foreign journalist in China was a great challenge," said Jennings.

International journalists have formed a type of club, gathering regularly to discuss interesting events and news stories. They also discuss frustrating experiences, interview difficulties and problems that only foreign reporters would face in China.

The night included speeches from press officers from Actionaid International, an international-background NGO that concentrates on the trade justice campaign in the World Trade Organization (WTO).



The journalists discuss relevant issues in China.

Photos by Tian Yufeng

BJ's LOVE & HATE

The Internet Lothario

By Gareth George

It's Friday night and he struts, wearing the kind of smirk you'd like to slap Richard Gere for sporting. He hops on a seat and adjusts his shirt and belt. He's there to be noticed. He's wearing sunglasses. At night. Indoors.

And yet this isn't a denizen of some hot Beijing nightspot. He's not even in a bar, and the reason he hasn't lit the cigarette dangling dangerously from the corner of his lip is because this is a non-smoking environment.

Rather than raising an eyebrow to the waitress, he will spend his first few moments here adjusting the webcam to make sure it captures his 'best side.' He is the Internet Lothario. He is in an Internet café. And he is here to chat.

Now, many people meet their partners over the internet. It's a good way to find people with common interests before you meet up, but surely something went seriously wrong with Internet Lothario. Maybe it was all those years of my dad turfing me out of the house and away from my computer games — the pretence being that children should be outside running around, rather than dads wanting the TV to watch the cricket — but I can't help but be stunned by the idea that there are people who take in a warm summer evening, and think they ought to throw on their best clothes to go and stare gormlessly at a computer. Suddenly the demon drink doesn't seem so bad after all. If our cyber loving friend could spare a tenth of the cash he must spend on hair gel to loosen



An Internet Lothario's territory up with a few beers, I'm convinced he'd be better for it. People shouldn't know how to stroke a mouse-mat provocatively.

Where did it all get so screwed up, Internet Lothario? When was the moment when the Internet café went from an innocent place to meet new friends to the highlight of your social week? Maybe Internet Lothario is really shy. Maybe he has trouble approaching girls. Well, boo hoo, maybe he just watched too many episodes of *Happy Days* and likes to click his fingers and point at his reflection in the mirror. Personally, I like to think he has a really stupid voice.

A bigger man than me might now be shaking his head at Internet Lothario's lack of social skills and bemoaning what the Internet age is doing to modern youth. But frankly, Internet Lothario doesn't deserve social skills.

I hope he eventually meets his online buddies in real life and reacts to jokes with a deadpan use of the term 'lol'. I pray he has to take a sheet of smiley face stickers with him everywhere he goes just to express emotion. In fact, I hope that right now he's peeling off an angry smile and slapping it right in the center of this article. Assuming he can see it with his shades on.

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A corner of the Panjiayuan Antique Market. Picture is from page 8

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A hive of antiquity



Bring a buddhist statue home!



Junk...junk...gem!



The lamps really are relaxing.



Chairman Mao's statuette is still popular.



This lady from southern China makes handicrafts.



Now where's Wal-Do?

By Simon Lim

If you ask anyone for the best place to buy antiques and souvenirs, many will direct you to the Panjiayuan Antique Market.

This mother of all markets is one of a kind in Beijing. It's located by the 3rd Ring Road just couple of miles south of Guomao. It is home to some 3,000 deal-

ers who trawl the country for all sorts of antiques and curios ranging from Qing Dynasty bronze works to Cultural Revolution-era souvenirs and modern day knick-knacks.

The market is a hive of activity during the weekend, when most antique hunting locals and tourists descend upon the makeshift stores within the

market compound to jostle for the best buys. Be prepared to haggle hard for whatever takes your fancy. Need a terracotta soldier to guard your home? What about old photos to decorate that bare wall, or a Buddha for your living room? No matter what your taste is, you will find something for everyone.



At the Panjiayuan market you can buy just about anything from China.

"Photography has always been a passion ever since I got my first Kodak Instantmatic. It is also a means for me to record events, people, and the ever-changing landscape of our modern society no matter where I am."

— Simon Lim (Singapore)



You want it, we got it.



Terracotta soldiers: ubiquitous



But does it still ring?



A sip of liquor takes the chill out of a down turn in the furry keychain market.



Where there's muck, there's brass door knockers.

Satan, make me a Supergirl



Supergirl competitor, He Jie, at the Beijing concert for Supergirl winners on October 9.

Photo by Getty Images

The power of the icon

By Shelley Xie
Li Yuchun



Champion, Supergirls 2005

Born: 1984

Education: Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Popular Music College

Style:

"Tall and gangly, with a thatch of frizzy hair, the adjectives most used to describe her were 'boyish' or 'androgynous'," said Jim Yardley in the New York Times.

When Li Yuchun takes the stage, a Beatlemania-style frenzy of noise takes over, and no one can shift his/her (probably mostly her) eyes from her when she is wearing a white suit, no make-up and sporting spiky, wiry hair.

She sings aggressively: loud songs, and songs written for men. She dances passionately jazz-style, Latin-style, and sometimes along with her violin - setting out her own individual style.

Outgoing, boyish and confident on stage, she is somewhat quiet and introverted away from the limelight. Her girlish sensitivity and tenderness are concealed under her boyish exterior.

Zhou Bichang



Second place, Supergirls 2005

Born: 1985

Study: Hsinghai Conservatory School in Guangzhou.

Style:

She is also described as boyish. From the baggy jeans and tartan shirts, to the popular black-framed glasses, R&B music and the free-style hip hop, to the natural transition

of the falsetto, she attracts fans with her vocal illustration of music.

Described as the female version of Jay Chow, she puts her own mark on every song. Tao Zhe, a famous singer and composer, praised her and said that he would never forget her voice.

Nicknamed after the cartoon character Doraemon, she tends to be a cute "boy" compared with Li Yuchun's cool "boy". Yi Hui, a Supergirl in the national final, said that Bibi (Zhou Bichang's nickname) actually was not really like a boy. Off screen, she loves to collect cute toys and chat about make-up or accessories with other girls.

Early in the 2001, a music company in Shenzhen wrote a song *Miss You So Much* for her and released it on the Internet. In 2002, she sang *Dragon Fist* with Jay Chow at one of his shows.

Zhang Liangying



Third place, Supergirls 2005

Born: 1984

Study: Major in English in the Foreign Language School in Sichuan

Style:

Many of the male audience members chose to vote for her. One of her biggest fans is Huang Jianxiang, a commentator on CCTV's sports channel. Every time he goes to the pub, he likes to hear Zhang's English songs.

She is most famous for her English songs and Mariah Carey-like style, and is described as the "Soul Singer".

Because of family hardships, she had to sing songs in bars to earn money. This experience made her more mature than the other girls. As she didn't receive any professional musical training, she depends on her talent and passion to conquer her fans and judges.

By Gareth George

For all her talent as a make up artist, Mother Nature is a bitch.

I don't begrudge a tree a good coat of bark or a thick head of amber leaves - the world has fixed colors for autumn and they're very nice: I'm talking about the beautiful people.

Is it reasonable that nature should spend so much time getting some people just right, while others look like their features were pounded on with a spade? And it's not just looks: some get talent. Some sing like angels while others sound like the brakes on a Beijing bus. What is the 'X-factor' that separates the stars from the asteroids? Is it just good genes and fresh vegetables?

Halloween is lurking just around the corner, so you were probably thinking of dusting up that old zombie costume and staggering out to groan at the moon. I know I was. But why not make a real Jekyll and Hyde transformation? Why not begin the process that will ultimately lead to your triumph in next year's *Supergirl* competition?

No one's been short of things to say about the success of the little TV show from Hunan, but many seem to have lost sight of the reason people enter these things in the first place: to get famous. To change their lives.

From *Pop Idol* in the UK to *American Idol*, to the Mon-

the prizes. Even the experts agree. Yuanyuan Ding, co-host of Joy FM on CRI, accepts that "a good ear for music would be a good start. But it's not all about singing and the best singers don't always win." So if you sound like a cat being strangled, breathe a big sigh of relief. But not too loud or people may think you're yodeling.

With talent not essential, perhaps your transformation from face in the crowd to pop sensation isn't so far fetched. But you need a basic set of skills - singing, dancing, smiling, and dressing - of a standard better than the local taxi driver and his unholy trinity of baijiou, KTV and Celine Dion. And you might think it's a good move to ape the style of this year's *Supergirl* winner, Li Yuchun. Yuanyuan shakes her head. "The three finalists all had a look. The one who finished third [Zhang Liangying] was quite feminine. The other two, Li Yuchun and Zhou Bichang, were more boyish. But they all had their own individuality - especially the winner." In other words, if you want to stand out, be yourself. If you are unfortunate enough to closely resemble someone who is already a famous rock star, go back to your zombie outfit now. (Unless you are a girl who resembles Freddie Mercury.)

Many famous singers make a name for themselves with a signature style. But Yuanyuan reckons anyone entering *Supergirl* needs:



CRI's Joy FM DJ, Yuanyuan, ponders over what it takes to be a Supergirl.

Photo provided by Ding Yuanyuan

golian Sour Yogurt sponsored competition here, it's not always those blessed with talent who come away with

pergirl needs: "The diversity to be able to handle different kinds of songs. Because there are 20 rounds to get through,

and the judges will expect you to sing all different kinds - rock, pop, ballads, and traditional numbers as well." More importantly, "You have to be able to communicate your enthusiasm for performing and for music through a combination of singing, dancing and communication."

Personality, you see? Regardless of how good you are, in the pop world people have to like you - especially if you want us zombies to vote for you on *Supergirl* next year.

The Bible of Super Girls

By Shelley Xie

A unique personality is very helpful if you want to be distinctive, either in next year's competition, or in daily life. But what skills? Let's find out in *The Bible of Super Girls* (By San Bao, Xinhua Publishing House).

Voice is the main way the Supergirls identify themselves, but performance, costumes and make-up definitely help girls.

Dancing is very helpful while singing. When Li Yuchun and He Jie were on the stage, even the judges stood up and swung their bodies. Hei Nan, one of the judges, said "I could not stop myself from standing up and rocking". Huang Yali, the sixth placed Supergirl, said when the R&B music was on and she danced her steps with the basketball she felt a totally different passion and confidence.

Costume and make-up either makes you look fantastic or destroys your image. Liu Jun, a senior stylist, suggested that girls should decide on outfit and make-up based on an understanding of their voices. "Emphase your advantages in accordance with your individuality."

Exercising to keep fit. As slim as possible seems to be the target for every girl. But singing and dancing on the stage for at least two hours requires lots of energy and strength, and nobody would like to watch a girl gasping for breath before the camera. Chen Qi, a former national swimmer and a Yoga enthusiast, advised girls to exercise in gyms, walk for one hour a day, or ride a bike for twenty minutes. They are not difficult exercises for teen girls, and doing them regularly produces results.

My name is Supergirl

By Shelley Xie

They are not the girls of Superman, but they have super powers to catch the eye.

Supergirl Jacket

By Adidas (Germany)



Remember what Zhang Liangying wore off stage? Yes, Adidas. She loves sports wear.

Barbie as Supergirl

By Barbie (US)



When dressed in superhero costume, Barbie becomes an authentic Supergirl. The figure comes with a doll stand featuring the 'S' logo. The doll comes dressed in a white t-shirt with a glittery logo, a red cape with glitter on the inside, a blue vinyl skirt, and a yellow vinyl belt.

Rainbow stripe knitted cap



The winter is coming, so don't you want to fight the cold in style? A rainbow of yellow, purple, pink, red and blue stripes make your life more colorful during the white season.

Babydoll T-shirts



Blue and red are the typical colors for Superman. But for Supergirls, you do not get more fashionable than pink, white, black and army green.

Supergirl soft vinyl lunch box



These pink and sky blue lunch boxes can keep your food hot and fresh. Made from vinyl with a plastic handle and zipper, these lunch boxes are very convenient for young children.

Do you know of a new fashion trend or live an interesting lifestyle? We invite you to share it with us at yushanshan724@ynet.com. Please write "Fashion" in the subject field.

The Ring stirs a whirlwind



Wagner: not so difficult to understand.

By Wang Shuang

Entering the Poly Theater lobby on the debut night of Richard Wagner's monumental four-opera epic *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, one could read the excitement on every face. Everyone knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in Beijing.

The 15-hour masterpiece has gripped every generation since its 1876 premiere and has only been performed once in Asia when it was staged in Japan.

Yu Long, artistic director of the Beijing Music Festival, said, "This is a historic moment for Asia."

Steeped in myth, the whole story is more like an allegory. The cycle follows the fortunes of gods, giants, gnomes and humans as they battle greed and betrayal to reach a final redemption.

Although the theater was at capacity, not all were Wagner fans – I'm afraid that many of them were attracted by reputation – including myself. After all, it is not an easy story to understand. The theatre even arranged an introductory lecture before the show began for the benefit of those unfamiliar.

However, when the first weak French horn broke the silence of the theater, any anxiety about the opera evaporated. So began a non-stop two and a half hours of music. Unlike Italian opera, which uses aria to shape the character, this opera utilizes motive. That means the music tells the story, rather than the actors. The actors are at the service of the music. It was actually a symphonic poem that the audience was appreciating.

Wagner put much of what he wanted to tell in the music-greed, conspiracy, jealousy, despair-and that was just what we expected to experience. After the concert, I felt a little exhausted, yet more excited.

The artists from Nuremberg proved they had done great job that night. It was a perfect match of music and expression. Alberich, the King of the dwarves, made a deep impression on me. The actor's own face and exaggerated expression implied the character. When he lost the ring, I even felt a bit sorry for him in his desperation.

Despite its mythic frame, the story wasn't hindered by its lofty themes. The Nuremberg version brought a



The Ring Cycle: a giant symbolic poem.

Photos by Wang Xiaoxi

more modern element through scenery and costume. The mountains and rivers were abstract and the gods were living in a modern ship. Dwarf workers dressed in suits and the giants looked like soldiers from World War II. Yet the gods retained the look from their Greek

mythological origins. If you spent a day in front of your TV, changing channel every five minutes, the scene on stage might resemble the kind of dream you would have that night.

The audience was quick to applaud at the end, and the sound went on way

past the polite acknowledgement of a job well done. A middle aged Chinese man seated next to me (about one third of the audience were foreign) told his partner that he had changed his mind and thought the opera 'unforgettable'.

By Yu Shanshan

We are talking about the 'Chinese characteristics' of everything. Now we have a beautiful musical representation in Ye Xiaogang's poetic vocal symphony *Song from the Earth*.

As one of the 8th Beijing Music Festival performances, Ye Xiaogang, the composer took stage beside the China Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Zhang Yi, in the Beijing Concert Hall. The composer chose two of his latest works, *My Faraway Nanjing* (for cello and orchestra), the complete version of *Song from the Earth*, and a later one, 1998's *Suite from Ballet Shenzhen Story*. "They actually represent my depiction of three periods of Chinese history – from right now, to modern history to ancient times." Ye said. They turned out to be three particularly fresh hues.

Shenzhen Story is the kind of picturesque music that urban Chinese can understand. "Because it is specially written involving the lives of all of us," Ye said. He mixes Chinese and Western instruments, with a touch of Guangdong folk music, to weave a musical metropolis where the economy rises and rural workers swarm – both migrant workers and urban white collars are dreaming their little dreams, and vitally, all dreams seem to come true in this golden city.

Xylophone and Chinese flute depicted the wide-eyed migrant workers as they set foot on this hot land for the first time. The strict schedules of office ladies were represented by piano. The hilarious parties of wine cups and mora chips were led by trombone. The promise of the future was hued with the color of legend by trumpet, bassoon and a vertical percussion instrument that sounded like *Bianzhong*, Chinese ancient chimes. All the while,

Song from the earth



Ye Xiaogang receiving flowers and braves

Photo by Chen Jiabin

the piano sang of hope with the promise of a new sunrise enjoyed by the city's builders.

My Faraway Nanjing is not the usual mournful depiction of the massacre 67 years ago in Nanjing (invading Japanese killed 300,000 people). "I'm not able to explain it clearly. It's a retrospective of history," Ye explained. His music echoes this complexity. String instruments play a low tone, then a trumpet sheds light through the clouds. After a few seconds, all goes back to the deadly scene of struggle.

Finally, first cellist Zhu Yibing raised his bow, looked at the ceiling. With him, the whole string section raised theirs and, after another subtle pause, *shuaa*, they gave a clean cut, a whistle of the bow cutting through the air gave *My Faraway Nanjing* a surprising yet profound ending.

Ye's *Song from the Earth* is a fas-

cinating response to Gustav Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* (*The Song of the Earth*), composed in 1908. Mahler set ancient Chinese poems amid a huge symphonic canvas. Inspired, and with expert help, Ye Xiaogang found the original Chinese poems from the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and made a dynamic blend of postmodern Western styles and Chinese traditions.

Ye finished four movements on February 14, which, under the baton of Yu Long, were premiered by the China Philharmonic Orchestra on February 18 at the Poly Theatre in Beijing.

The Chinese version of *Song of the Earth* won wide acclaim on the orchestra's tour of the United States and Europe, which included a concert in Berlin in March. Ye's score interested local critics who began to look forward to the complete version.

The "Youth. Euro. Classic" festival, which promotes contemporary works, commissioned Ye to add the last two movements to the symphony and requested that it be premiered at the opening concert on August 5.

Following the approach of the previous four movements, the two new ones feature Chinese folk operas such as Chuanju Opera from Southwest China's Sichuan Province.

"I admire Mahler's score and love some of the episodes. But in my view, his composition is just his personal view, or say, a Westerner's view, of Chinese poems which were roughly translated into German and a little bit removed from the real mood and situations portrayed in the poems," Ye said.

"I plan the same spiritual development as Mahler's: from an naturally unstrained spirit, the passion and desire for the world, to the pessimistic view of life, and an ending steeped in mystic and sorrowful inner monologue. But my musical language has no business with his," Ye said. Singing the original five-words-a-line poems takes 40 minutes instead of Mahler's one hour. "But it doesn't necessarily mean the difficulty of singing the five words is minimized."

In Mahler's *Song*, a mezzo-soprano (or a baritone) and a tenor take the singing, while in Ye's version, the team becomes a paired soprano and baritone. Along with the Philharmonic's vibrant percussion section, soprano Lu Qi was spotlighted, sounding best when bending notes like a Beijing Opera singer. And the baritone Yang Xiaoyong's disposition makes him very proper one to sing Li Bai's poems. The performance conveys the power of these seven Chinese poems to a Chinese audience.

City sonata screened

By Sabu Zhang

Every time I go to 798 art district, I'm amazed by the thriving contemporary art scene. Even on an ordinary Saturday afternoon, more than three exhibitions are opening at different venues among the dozens of galleries. Dimensions Art Center, the first Taiwanese gallery which opened this July, now unveils its second show – *Reverberations of the City: The Multi-Media art of Hu Jieming*.

The gallery's guiding principle is promoting experimental artists with cutting-edge ingenuity. The collaboration with Shanghai artist Hu Jieming continues this theme. This is Hu's first show in Beijing. "It's a good opportunity for us to communicate since it's a rare chance to uphold new-media art," said independent curator Feng Boyi, who also curated Dimension's first exhibition.

Now in his forties, Hu Jieming's ten year exploration of new-media art has encompassed video installation, digital photography and video art.

He was first motivated by dying people's cardiographs, which he recorded and translated into musical staves. "To my surprise, the tune was really melodious."

Reverberations of the City comes from Hu's own experience of urban transition – the collision between eastern and western culture in modernizing China, and people's uncertainty and fragility under such circumstances. What makes it unique is Hu's adoption of brand new methods to convey the subject.

One of his most intriguing interactive works, *Onwards and upwards*, is shown in a minimized version. Originally designed as 45 monitors piled up into a 35 meter high tower, four people on the screens are climbing up to the top, then slipping down when sound is detected, as it is controlled by exterior sound. According to different speed and volume, the climber will have different reactions – louder and they'll slip faster. If the sound stops, they continue climbing.

"This work can be interpreted as a representation of people's vulnerability, since they are easily affected by outer influence," explained Hu, "It's absurd, but helpless, just like the paradoxical reality – you have to strive even if you will always fall."

The other interactive device *It's still there* simulates the behavior of a watchdog by infrared controllers. When people walk near a certain height of the dog's vision, it will bark; if people approach in a lower stance, it will accept them. "Every dog has its territory, it's just like every culture has borders. This work indicates the culture conflict, invasion and protection," explained the artist.

Accompanied by Chinese ancient music *Flowing Water*, the piece *Something in the water* depicts a the coexistence and manipulation between water and creatures. The artistic techniques and the skillful use of the mighty zither music perfectly fulfill the artist's ends – urban people inhabit a city that also stifles them, it's just hard to live in between. Hu explained that "water can be serene, yet it can also take our lives."

Another video work *From Architectural Immanence* incorporates both western and Chinese architectures in the same screen, while western classical music and Chinese traditional music are played as the camera proceeds. Every key is captured and presented on the screen by a musical staff. As the red dots (for Chinese traditional style from Anhui) and yellow dots (for modern style) jump up and down on the buildings, a vivid transcendental sensation is produced. The collision is revealed from vision to sound, then to vision again.

"We were almost at the same starting point in the 1990s. Compared with western video artists, we are technically weak, often I have to cut the budget and make a more practical plan for my works. For the technical details, I have to ask professional programmers for help." Hu Jieming said. Though this time, only four works are displayed, it takes much time to sense, react and reflect. Hu Jieming's new-media art rolls out a stunning multi sensual picture for us to experience and appreciate.

***Reverberations of the City* will go on show until December 25, 11 am-7 pm. Closed Monday. Admission FREE.**



Onwards and upwards

Photo by Sabu Zhang

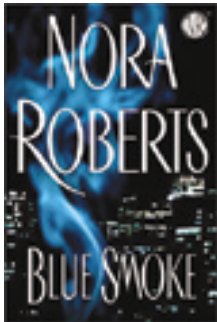
Do you know of a good show, exhibition or other cultural event in Beijing? Please let us know at yushanshan724@ ynet.com. Please write "Culture" in the subject field.

Bestseller booklists 4th week Oct.

By Jia Ting

US – New York Times Bestsellers

1. *Knife of Dreams*, by Robert Jordan
2. *The Lincoln Lawyer*, by Michael Connelly
3. *Blue Smoke*, by Nora Roberts



(An arson investigator whose family suffered a fire when she was a child is menaced by a sociopath.)

4. *Consent To Kill*, by Vince Flynn
5. *A Wedding in December*, by Anita Shreve

Amazon.com Bestsellers

1. *A Million Little Pieces* (Oprah's Book Club), by James Frey
2. *Super Health: Seven Golden Keys to Lifelong Vitality*, by K.C. Craichy (A safe, simple and complete lifestyle program enhances performance, promotes energy, and nurtures overall health that can be sustained over a lifetime.)
3. *The Unultimate Peril* (A Series of Unfortunate Events, Book 12), by Lemony Snicket
4. *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion
5. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L. Friedman

UK – The Sunday Times Bestsellers

1. *Extreme: My Autobiography*, by Sharon Osbourne



(Memoir of a colorful life as a rock daughter, wife and manager.)

2. *Untold Stories*, by Alan Bennett
3. *Next to You*, by Gloria Hunniford
4. *Being Freddie*, by Andrew Flintoff
5. *Ashes Victory*, by England Cricket Team

France – Fnac.com Bestsellers

1. *Asterix T33 – Le Ciel Lui Tombe sur la Tête* (Asterix T33 – The Sky Falls on His Head), by Goscinny and Uderzo



2. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (French Version), by J.K. Rowling
3. *Dictionnaire Culturel en Langue Française* (French Language Dictionary), by Alain Rey
4. *XIII, T17 – L'Or de Maximilien* (XIII, T17 – The Gold of Maximilien), by Vance and Van Hamme
5. *Le Souffle des Dieux* (The Souffle of Gods), by Bernard Werber

Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (German Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Der Schwarm* (The Crowd), by Frank Schätzing

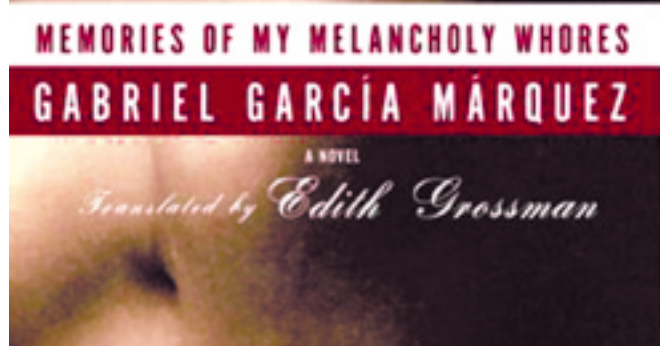


3. *Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch BGB* (German Civil Code)
4. *Handelsgesetzbuch HGB* (German Commercial Code)
5. *Kuss mich, wenn du kannst* (Match Me If You Can), by Susan E. Philips

China – Joyo.com Bestsellers

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Chinese Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Decipher The Dream of Red Chamber*, by Liu Xiwu
3. *Eat Your Head – 60 Recipes for Lazy People*, by Saba
4. *Brother*, by Yu Hua
5. *Don't Just Do What You Are Told To, Do What You Need To*, by Bob Nelson

Marquez remembers Melancholy Whores



By Wang Chun

It is 10 years since Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the standard-bearer of magical realism, produced a novel. This year, the 77-year-old Nobel laureate ends a decade long fiction drought with an elegiac fairy-tale named *Memories of My Melancholy Whores* that celebrates old age and possibilities of rejuvenation. The English version is available this week. At 112 pages, the book is more of a novella than a novel. But it has enough juice for Gabo fans to swim in.

In what may be his last novel, Marquez connects his earlier works with love letters, prostitution as

metaphor, the theme of regenerative love, and the first-person narrative. Love, rather than Latin America's messy politics, has increasingly come to dominate Marquez's fiction. And he pays tribute to fellow Nobel laureate Jasunari Kawabata's *House of the Sleeping Beauties*, about a group of elderly men who pay to watch the most beautiful girls of the city sleep. In *Memories of My Melancholy Whores*, an old bachelor journalist, who has slept with countless prostitutes, decides to procure a 14-year-old virgin on his 90th birthday. Thus begins a love affair that might have been

invented as a satire on male sexual and romantic vanity. Love it or hate it, the story has the Marquez stamp.

Last year, the Columbian Nobel laureate had set a milestone for Spanish-language publishing in the United States with the release of the Spanish edition of *Memories*. The book, which involved Random House's most ambitious marketing strategy for a Spanish-language title, also became its fastest-selling Spanish-language book to date, despite piracy problems.

Marquez has been a household name and face in Latin America since 1967, when his famous novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude* was first published in Buenos Aires. The novel is said to have sold more than six million copies and to have been translated into more than thirty languages. His signature magic realism has similarly spread beyond Latin American borders, winning the flattery of imitation by such notable North Americans as Joyce Kilmer, John Updike, and Louise Erdrich.

The book was translated by Edith Grossman, noted translator of sixty books. Her superb English version of *Don Quixote*, Cervantes's immortal comic masterpiece, published by Ecco in 2003, has won wide critical praise.



Gabriel Garcia Marquez
illustrated by John Murphy

Penguin snaps up Chinese novel

The Penguin Group has purchased the English-language rights to China's best-selling novel, *The Wolf Totem*, for a record \$100,000.

Jiang Rong's 2004 Chinese-language novel about the struggle for life on the Mongolian grasslands will be published in English in 2007. An Boshun, Jiang's agent with Changjiang Literary Art Press, said.

Jo Lushy, Penguin's representative in Beijing, said interest from several publishing houses had pushed up the price for *The Wolf Totem*, which has sold more than one million copies and topped best-seller lists for months.

The meticulously researched, semi-autobio-

graphical tale is built around the lives of wolves told through the eyes of a student sent to work on the Inner Mongolian grasslands. It is set during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when Mao Zedong emptied the cities of educated youths to have them work alongside peasants and herders.

Critics and readers have praised its exploration of the relationship between man and animal, accurate detail and spiritualistic questioning. Ironically, it also has been embraced by Chinese business-

men, who see in its accounts of the wolf pack's hunting, stalking and killing a metaphor for survival and success in China's rough and tumble corporate world.

With interest in China growing along with its booming economy, Penguin will

publish four to six translations of Chinese works a year. For *The Wolf Totem*, Lushy said that the publisher is evaluating three different English translators. There will be no rush to market, she said.

(Source: AP)



The Chinese version of
The Wolf Totem

What's on local shelves

• CNPIEC Book Store

Band of Brothers
By Stephen E. Ambrose, 336 pages, 140 yuan

As grippingly as any novelist, preeminent World War II historian Stephen Ambrose tells the horrifying, hallucinatory saga of Easy Company, whose 147 members he regards as the finest combat paratroopers on earth during the war. Novel of the TV drama of the same name.

EISENHOWER

By Stephen Ambrose, 640 pages, 180 yuan

Ambrose edited the Eisenhower Papers project for many years and finally turned his talents to writing a large-scale biography of Ike. **The Longest Day**
By Cornelius Ryan, 352 pages, 140 yuan
Ryan's classic military study, the basis for the 1972 film with John Wayne, was re-released for the 50th anniversary of D-Day.

Where: 2nd floor of China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, 16 Gongti Donglu Tel: 6500 1859

• The Bookworm

Lipstick Jungle
by Candace Bushnell, 368 pages, 70 yuan

Written by author of *Sex and City*. This time around, the ladies are a bit older, a lot richer, but not particularly wiser nor more endearing than Bushnell's earlier heroines.

Never Let Me Go

By Kazuo Ishiguro, 272 pages, 165 yuan

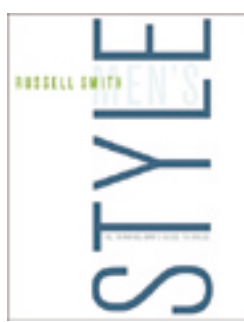
2005 Booker Prize short-listed. The book is a fantasy so mundanely told, so excruciatingly ordinary in transit, yet eerie in execution. Bookworm has many other works by Kazuo Ishiguro as well.

Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District Tel: 6586 9507

Review

By Wang Chun

Men's Style: The Thinking Man's Guide to Dress



By Russell Smith
McClelland & Stewart

In his first book of non-fiction, novelist and cultural agent-provocateur Russell Smith finds sartorial fulfillment in defining a philosophy of dress that supersedes all other men's style guides. The book targets a rising cadre of single, male BlackBerry users, and offers acerbic advice on how to dress and shop in a world of contesting trends. By analyzing fashion's historical, cultural and economic structures, Smith unravels the secret codes of convention and lays before us the "special knowledge" required to enter the most elite circles. (*The Globe and Mail*)

Nothing That Meets the Eye: The Uncollected Stories



By Patricia Highsmith
Bloomsbury, 456 pages

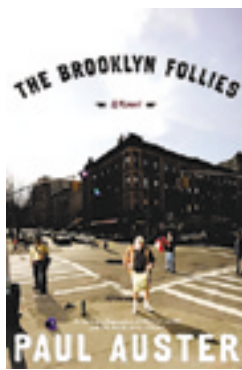
This collection showcases the almost ventriloquist powers of a dazzling writer over nearly half a century. Redemption is rare, the feel-good factor entirely absent, yet Highsmith is additively brilliant. The past few years have seen a buzz of interest in her work, with the 1999 film of *The Talented Mr Ripley*, Andrew Wilson's recent biography and *The Selected Stories of Patricia Highsmith*, published to acclaim in the US in 2001. Now with this book, Highsmith seems to inhabit a quintessentially 50s world of smoking, quipping women, where the wipe-clean surfaces cover up something nasty, and life is spent drinking in hotel bars or sliding towards murder: think Edgar Allan Poe meets pulp fiction. (*Guardian*)

Strangeland

By Tracey Emin
Sceptre, 213 pages

Whether you regard Tracey Emin as an artist of brilliant originality, a laughable bore or a charlatan poking fun at the art establishment, you are likely to have heard of her, and you will probably have an opinion. *Strangeland* is neither a memoir nor a manifesto, but has elements of both. It is a collection of Emin's writings about memory, childhood, love, sex and death. In the book, she gives the impression of someone floating on the edges of literacy, but also of someone with the self-formed intelligence to bypass literary convention. At intervals, the printed pages are invaded by spiky little poems in Emin's handwriting. These are sometimes aggressive, sometimes confessional. When she likes, she can move – she writes with raw and heartbreaking honesty about the experience of having an abortion. (*Times*)

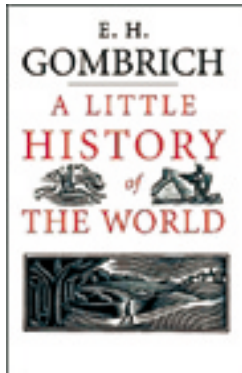
The Brooklyn Follies



By Paul Auster
Faber & Faber

The mere mention of Auster's name serves as a passport to the labyrinthine planet of New York, Auster's adopted city. A critically praised writer and filmmaker, his works sit comfortably on book-club lists without losing status as cult favorites. *The Brooklyn Follies*, one of Auster's finest achievements yet, unfolds in the tumultuous months of the 2000 US presidential election. This is a warmer, more tender side of Auster than we've seen before, and his embrace of a country divided by politics, religion and other ideologies is a passionate shout from the rooftop, equal in its joy and despair, and ultimately a work about the glories of redemption. (*The Age*)

A Little History of the World



By E.H. Gombrich,
Yale University Press, 284 pages

Written by world-renowned art historian E.H. Gombrich in 1935, *A Little History of the World* – now available, at long last, in an English translation – is a masterpiece of nonfiction writing for children. Using vivid imagery, storytelling and sly humor, Gombrich brings history to life in a way that adults as well as children can appreciate. The book displays a breadth of knowledge, as Gombrich begins with prehistoric man and ends with the close of WWII. Among the subjects covered are Julius Caesar (who, Gombrich exults, was able to dictate two letters simultaneously without getting confused), Charlemagne, the American Civil War, Karl Marx, the Paris Commune and Kaiser Wilhelm. In the final, newly added chapter, Gombrich wrote about what happened between the close of World War I and the collapse of the Soviet Union. (*News Day*)

Popco

By Scarlett Thomas
Harcourt, 503 pages

In 2000, Scarlett Thomas and 14 other British authors called themselves the New Puritans and wrote a manifesto demanding that fiction be "real" and "simple," "shun poetry," and "avoid elaborate punctuation." Although the movement soon dissolved, Thomas still sticks to many of its rules. In her sixth novel, *Popco*, which she wrote on a palmtop the size of a wallet, Thomas mocks stylistic flourishes of any kind. The narrator, Alice, an employee at a massive toy company, must invent a product that's "soft, cute, lovable, huggable, dinky, sweet, tiny, adorable, baby, fragile." Disgusted, she brainstorm while repeating things like "abort abort" and "escape is the only option." (*Village Voice*)

A Halloween with Chinese characteristics

By James Liu

Next Monday is Halloween. But don't expect the Chinese kids, wearing their ghost masks, to knock at your door for candy. Halloween has become a gala party night for Chinese young people. They go to bars and disco clubs, drinking and dancing till late into the night. However, as Halloween falls on a Monday, restaurants and bars will hold activities on the weekend in case people cannot play too late on Monday night.

Beijing's bars and clubs with no exception try their best to compete with each other by providing live music and happy hour activities. We have researched places where you can have a decent dinner as well as a lot of fun.

Spicy food and devilish fun at Nina's



Nina's Coffee Bar

By Han Manman

Pop up to Nina's Coffee Bar in Wudaokou, Haidian District where you can experience Mexican food while celebrating Halloween.

Nina's Halloween parties from October 28-31 include: live bands, 30 yuan unlimited draft beer and soft drinks, a free Bloody Mary with meals for ladies, and a free slice of pumpkin pie on Halloween night (Monday, October 31.)

Dress up on Halloween night, and Nina will give a prize for the three best costumes. Participants have the chance to get a free meal ticket, fine red wine, cocktails or a VIP card.

At Nina's you can enjoy authentic Mexican food in bright Mexican surroundings, or in a cozy private room. Take a glass of tequila with friends as you listen to the lively music of Central and South America.

Nina's regular menu includes more than 30 Mexican dishes, like tacos, burritos, enchiladas, and even vegan snacks. All dishes are priced at 10-30 yuan, and there are more than 30 Chinese and western dishes.

Where: No. 252 Chengfu Lu, Haidian **Open:** 11 am - midnight **Tel:** 6265 6588. **Average cost:** 50 yuan



Classical tools of Halloween

Pilipili: The only African restaurant in Beijing



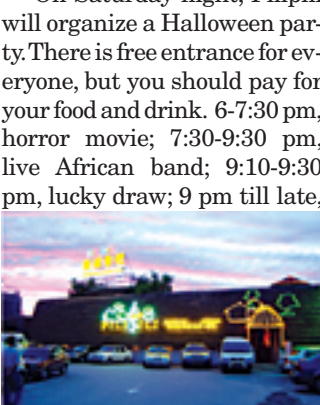
A bloody plate...

By Han Manman

At the end of Beijing's "super bar street" is an exotic building with a grass roof named Pilipili that is attracting a lot of attention. It is the first and only African restaurant and bar in Beijing, with an area of more than 1,000 square meters.

'Pilipili' is a Swahili word (an East African language) which means chili. The restaurant is called 'Pilipili' because it is very easy for Chinese people to pronounce. It also reminds African people living in Beijing of their beloved families and homelands.

On Saturday night, Pilipili will organize a Halloween party. There is free entrance for everyone, but you should pay for your food and drink. 6-7:30 pm, horror movie; 7:30-9:30 pm, live African band; 9:10-9:30 pm, lucky draw; 9 pm till late,



Pilipili



Inside the Pilipili

Photos by Han Manman

African DJ: s-press, Sinvu.

Pilipili provides two special set menus. 268 yuan set: smoked salmon, duck liver salad, cream of pumpkin soup, Hungarian goulash, Kenyan chicken tikka, French baked prawn with vanilla butter sauce, and mango mousse cake. 298 yuan: Senegalese ox-tongue salad; Congolese avocado; Liberian lobster soup; cream of mushroom soup; T-bone steak; braised Comoro curry vegetable served with rice; Black Forest gateau; and South African fruit pudding roll.

Besides Halloween, Pilipili also has other parties. 'Egyptian Night' is held on the third Saturday of the month, when you can not only enjoy Arabic style dishes cooked by Egyptian chefs, but also Arabic dancing. 'African Night' is on the last Friday of the month, when an African DJ will play traditional African music.

Where: No.22, Super Bar Street, Laitai Flower Street, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - 1 am **Tel:** 8448 3372, 84484332 **Average cost:** 100 yuan per person

Winner's Sports Bar & Grill: An American Halloween



File photo provided by Winner's Sport Bar & Grill

By Han Manman

Located on the sixth floor of the Golden Resources Shopping Mall (Asia's biggest mall) is Winner's Sport Bar & Grill.

On Halloween night, Winner's will provide you with a 68-yuan American Buffet Dinner.

You just need to pay for dinner and then enjoy the party. You not only have the chance to dance with various Russian 'ghosts,' but also to enjoy the fun of the costume ball.

The buffet comprises: eight appetizers & a salad station; red cabbage borscht (beef soup) with baby shrimp soup; bread and rolls (decorated like a dead man's arms and fingers); *Shawarma* (taco) & rib eye steak; 11 hot dishes and seven desserts, including Ghoulish ghost cake.

Where: Golden Resources Shopping Mall, West Fourth Ring Road, Haidian **Open:** 6-9 pm dinner; 9 pm - 0 am party and costume ball **Tel:** 8887 2945/6 **Average cost:** 68 yuan

Halloween craziness at Haoyun bar



File photo provided by Haoyun Bar

By Han Manman

Are you tired of the pressures of city life? Haoyun Bar will hold a fresh Halloween disco party designed for the party animal, featuring music, lights, innocent angels and exotic spectacles!

October 28's disco party includes:

- Part 1: The avatar of wickedness
- Part 2: The arrival of the angel
- Part 3: The crazy betrayal
- Part 4: The head of evil
- Part 5: The nightmarish climax
- Part 6: The ball of the devil
- Part 7: The birth of the baby demon
- Part 8: I am a cute demon
- Part 9: Death time

Haoyun, the New Get Lucky Bar and Restaurant, has served as the testing ground for new talent.

It is an intimate venue for China's biggest Alternative Rock idols. One night of live music there and you are sure to gain a measure of respect and appreciation for China's newest talent.

Where: 1-A Oriental Qicai World, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang **Open:** 9 pm - 5 am **Tel:** 8448 3339/5 **Admission:** 90 yuan per person (including beer, Spirits, soft drinks, food and seasonal specials)

Veronica's Recipes

Devil your eggs

By Veronica Smith

Food and the Devil have a close association. The kitchen is usually a hot place, and if you are baking in the middle of summer it could be described as being hot as Hell.

It's common to use the word 'sinful' to speak of food that is too rich, too creamy, or too sweet, and above all too delicious! This quote by Albert Einstein shows that even he felt that the devil has a say in what we like to eat "The

devil has put a penalty on all things we enjoy in life. Either we suffer in health or we suffer in soul or we get fat".

If your eggs are deviled it is not because they are evil but because they are spicy-hot. Spicy food began to be referred to as deviled in 18th century England; when food was traditionally bland and people were god fearing. An old English proverb says, "God sends us meat, the devil sends us cooks".

Halloween is a time to be naughty, dress up in outlandish costumes and eat sinful food. Try making these rich and creamy deviled eggs as an appetizer in honor of the holiday:

Ingredients: Eggs, mayonnaise, curry powder, dry mustard powder, cayenne pepper or paprika, and a pinch of salt.

Directions: Boil the eggs for 20 minutes, and then run under cold water; (this will keep the yolks a bright yellow colour) Slice



Photo by Liu Xiaojun

each egg in half lengthways and remove the yolks. Place the yolks in a bowl and add one teaspoon of mayonnaise, a pinch of curry, mustard and salt per egg, mix until smooth and then fill the egg whites with the yolk mixture in a decorative fashion. Finally, sprinkle with cayenne or paprika.

做法: 将鸡蛋煮20分钟, 然后放入冷水中冷却(这样可使蛋黄呈现亮黄色)。将每个鸡蛋切成两半并取掉蛋黄。将蛋黄放入碗中, 逐一添加一茶匙蛋黄酱、一小撮儿咖喱粉、干芥末粉和盐, 混合均匀。然后将蛋黄混合物放回蛋青中摆好, 撒上卡宴辣椒粉或红辣椒粉。

Translated by William King

魔鬼蛋
原料: 鸡蛋、蛋黄酱、咖喱粉、干芥末粉、卡宴辣椒粉或红辣椒粉、一小撮儿盐。

Winter is around the corner, next week's recipe for chili-con carne guarantees to keep you warm.

China lacks quality graduates

Despite its vast labor supply, China faces a looming shortage of home-grown talent. This has serious implications for multinationals and the growing number of Chinese companies with global ambitions.

So is found new research issued over the weekend by McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), McKinsey & Company's economics think tank, and McKinsey's China office. Less than 10 percent of Chinese job candidates would be suitable for work in a foreign company within the sectors of services and exports, MGI said.

To avoid a talent shortage

and to sustain its economic ascent, China must produce more graduates fit for employment in world-class companies, whether they are local or foreign, the report said.

Commenting on the findings, Andrew Grant, a director who leads McKinsey & Company's Greater China Practice, said China's looming quality labor shortage could stall its economic growth and its migration up the value chain from manufacturing to services.

China must dramatically increase funding for universities, improve its English-language instruction by recruiting teachers

from abroad, and do more to attract the many Chinese students who study abroad, the director said.

The year-long study, which included interviews with 83 human-resources professionals, involved with hiring graduates in low-wage countries, revealed:

Out of nine occupations studied (engineers, financial workers, accountants, quantitative analysts, generalists, life science researchers, doctors, nurses, and support staff), only 1 out of 10 Chinese job candidates would be suitable for work in a foreign company. Despite having a pool of 1.6 million engineers, only 160,000 of these are considered

suitable for work in multinationals, about the same as in the United Kingdom.

In China, engineers' education is biased towards theory. They receive little practical experience or involvement in teamwork projects compared with graduates in the West.

For jobs in the eight other occupations studied, poor English was one of the main reasons given for rejecting Chinese job applicants. Companies already in China may also have difficulty finding enough suitable employees in key service and managerial occupations.

China will produce 1.1 million

graduates suitable for employment in world-class service companies from 2003 to 2008. Over that period, large foreign multinationals and joint ventures alone will have to employ an additional 750,000 graduates.

In addition to front-line staff, there is an acute shortage of middle managers: over the next 10-15 years, China's companies will need 75,000 managers who can work effectively in global environments. Today, they only have 3,000 to 5,000.

On top of the generally low suitability of Chinese graduates, they are also widely dispersed and not very mobile. (Xinhua)

Respect your job? You probably don't work in government...



Graduates are thirsty for jobs. The best way to find and keep a job is to show your respect to your job.

Photo by sina.com

By Xie Xiaolin

Do you work as a consultant for a foreign funded firm? If you do, chances are you respect your job more than your friend in government. And much more than your teacher friend who has worked in the same job for 5 years in Hangzhou.

The 2005 Ratio Figure of Respect for jobs in Chinese companies has been launched by Chinahrd network in various cities, industries and careers. The purpose is to uncover problems facing staff and build a more attractive enterprise through refined management.

The question list features five levels of measurement. The "respect figure" means the ratio of respect people show for their jobs, which varies from 12 to 60--the higher, the better.

Beijing financial workers respect their jobs more than anywhere else in China, according to a national survey. Overall, Beijing's white-collar workers ranked third in comparison with other cities in China when asked how much respect they had for their jobs.

According to the survey, different positions, careers and industries greatly influence scores. People in higher positions show more respect for their jobs, possibly reflecting their gratitude for higher salaries, or their satisfaction on having earned a position over many years.

Staff in Beijing averaged 39.89, while top cities Guangzhou (40.12) and Shenzhen (40.20) fared marginally better. Other cities in the top ten include Chongqing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Hangzhou.

Industry variations were also notable - financial industry staff respect their jobs most with a figure of 41.31 and governmental or institutional staff least, averaging 36.44.

Staff in foreign-funded firms show more respect for their jobs than their state run counterparts with a figure of 40.33, compared to 38.35.

In specific careers, consulting staff averaged 43.30, followed by marketing (42.17) and HR staff (41.86). Journalists and editors rank ninth, and teachers and civil servants last.

The more faith staff have in a firm's future, the more respect they show. A company with "A bright future" averages 47.9, while "a depressed future" just 29.8.

And it seems size is important after all: a firm with less than 50 staff has a respect figure of 39.15, while it increases to 41.12 for a firm with more than 5,000 staff.

Job field, working age, educational background and the nature of the firm have little impact on the staff's level of respect for their job. But it suggests employees show more respect for work in developed areas and figures decrease when staff have worked in the same place for 3 to 5 years.



Ben Thompson, the classical guitarist in Beijing

Photo by Zhou Shuren

A Classical Gentleman

— Classical guitarist and classical actor: Ben Thompson

By Christopher Parsons

If anyone could make a living as a gentleman in Beijing, it would be Englishman Ben Thompson. Alas, such endeavors do little to put food on the table, so Ben turns to playing classical music, writing books on etiquette as well as acting as a gentleman on TV to pay the bills.

Q: Did you choose Beijing or did Beijing choose you?

A: Beijing chose me. I came to Beijing in 1999. At the time I was in Germany and I was trying to learn German. There were no classes I could join and nobody wanted to do a language exchange - almost all Germans speak excellent English. My next idea was to go to Israel and study Hebrew but the course I applied for rejected me on the grounds of my age. I was quite angry, and while I was browsing the Internet I found the web page of an organization which helps people come to China and study Mandarin.

Q: Did you have any classical goals here?

A: No. My goal is just to stay alive. I was 50 when I came to China, and at that age in England I would be expected to buy a large TV and sit down in front of it and die. In Beijing I have to use my brain and I find interesting things to do. And in my apartment, for some reason, I can't receive TV.

Q: What helps you "stay alive?"

A: I like to study classical forms of *taiji*, sometimes, though this year I haven't had time. For the last three years I have been acting in TV plays and a few films, so sometimes this involves travel. This year, particularly, I've been quite busy.

Q: So you can make TV but you don't watch it?

A: I do watch some TV plays on DVD. I think the Chinese long TV play is a very interesting art form. Of course some of them are very bad, but the best of them are excellent.

Q: Do the TV plays you are in fall in the excellent category, or the "other" category?

A: You can judge for yourself. I just shot a TV play called 派

克式左轮 (Python Revolver) in Suzhou with the energetic Chinese star Yin Xiaotian. Check out the website at <http://ent.sina.com.cn/t/pkszl/index.shtml>

Q: Where are people most likely to find you and your classical guitar?

A: Wudaokou, at the Language University, in Yuan Ming Yuan.

Q: Favorite crazy Beijing job offer?

A: I played classical guitar in a Mexican restaurant for about 6 months, which was uneconomical but fun.

Q: What is your favorite Chinese classical word or phrase?

A: 挂羊头卖狗肉 (Gua Yang Tou Mai Gou Rou).

My dictionary defines this as: 1) try to palm off something, inferior; 2) mislead with false promises.

I like this phrase because it is an excellent example of the way in which Chinese idioms can combine imagination and humor to give a very economical description of a common human experience. Plus it is just classic!

Ministry defines and promotes new jobs

By Ma Xiao

Pet doctor, food nutrition & safety promoter, SPA masseur, health analyzer and manager -- these are the latest jobs to be considered for accreditation by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

China's changing environment throws up fresh challenges for her work force. As such the ministry started ac-

crediting new professions two years ago, aiming at creating new jobs and promoting new markets.

The ministry also prepares professional quality standards, training courses, national examinations and certificates to be issued.

This week's list, the fourth of its kind, made 11 new jobs official. The list

includes medical emergency protector, IT software inspector, aquatic products inspector, agri-technology guide, laser-head producer, wind-power developer and emergency assistant.

So far, the ministry has released 11 new professional jobs and is preparing another 6 new jobs for promotion in the coming months.

BOC to recruit chief Olympic interpreter

By Han Manman

Beijing Olympic Organizing Committee (BOC) will begin the search for a chief interpreter early next year. Internationally experienced Olympic chief interpreters will then be invited to Beijing to exchange pearls of wisdom.

According to BOC, media operation training formally started last Thursday.

The training, jointly sponsored by BOC, the School of Foreign Study, the School of Journalism and Communication of Beijing University, is to provide operation talents with good language abilities and journalistic knowledge for the Beijing Olympics. This volunteer project was mainly aimed at Beijing University undergraduates and post-

graduates.

BOC said, in 2008, the number of registered journalists from various countries will run to 21,600, including 5,600 print journalists and photojournalists, 16,000 radio and TV reporters. Over 2,000 professional volunteers will provide services for the foreign journalists.

Seeking Jobs

An international trade graduate from Dalian University of Foreign Language and the University of Exeter in the UK seeks a job in accounting, translation, business management and administration. Tel: 13488725926.

Chen Yurong, Ph.D of consuming psychology and master of economics, is looking for a better job.

Please visit my website at: www.chenyurong.com, or call me at: 010-6707 4612, 13651033853.

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners is seeking a job as a language teacher. layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Female, 44, looking for a job as an accountant, cashier, or warehouse manager. 13552517749, 6732 7217

Wayne Tian is looking for a job related to mechanics and electronics. He has good English speaking and listening skills. 13811508491, 65245508

Need Help with a Halloween or birthday party? Mr. Magic is an American bilingual Birthday Clown/Magician with ten years experience in China. Shows include: magic show, balloon, face painting, prizes, treasure hunts, interactive game and much more!

Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Contact Mr. Magic at: parsons59@yahoo.com

Ivan Young, a new graduate from Beijing International Study University, is looking for a job as a business interpreter, management assistant, public relations officer, HR officer, or office secretary. ivan1339@sina.com, 13811243074

Jenny Li, a graduate from the University of International Business and Economics, is looking for a job as an interpreter or an international trade salesperson. 13611163663, jennyl163663@2911.net

Female, Beijinger, 29, certificated public accountant, fluent in both written and spoken English, is looking for a full-time job related to finance, or a part-time job related to English. lily948@hotmail.com 83477009.

Vacancies

Three vacancies for full-time English teachers at a school in Qingdao, Shandong province. We pay for your accommodation and flights with a 4000 yuan salary every month: lijiaxuanxuan@sohu.com, 62552834, 13381392538

Shanghai Whyte Asia Pioneer Pharma is looking for instrumentation and automation engineers, chemical engineers, R&D managers, chemists, microbiologists, chemical analysts, process development chemists, chemical products sourcing executives, and web masters. Contact: Zhou at: 021-6120 3156

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)



Nordic Tour – Sweden (1)



Jönköping University

— an academic haven in the heart of Sweden



View of the campus of Jönköping University

Guest: Thomas Andersson, the president of Jönköping University

Within walking distance of the beach and close to the countryside, Jönköping University is a small garden-like town. It is located in the center of the town of Jönköping, a region which is becoming increasingly global, and which has an unusually high proportion of industrial business.

Established in 1994, Jönköping University is one of the newest Swedish universities. Higher education in Jönköping is, however, much older. Its roots in nursing training can be traced back a hundred years, and teacher training to 1947.

The university recruits students from all over Sweden and has a highly developed organization for international contacts and 300 partner universities abroad. Its academic environment is young and vibrant with over 9,000 students. There are about 600 foreign students on campus.

Academic Strength:

As a member of the European University Association, our school provides academic research, undergraduate studies, graduate studies, doctoral studies and contract education. The objective of Jönköping University is to achieve excellence in specific focus areas, international orientation, cooperation with the surrounding society, as well as building a strong and attractive academic environment. Work experience may be useful for master's studies.



Thomas Andersson, president of Jönköping University

Four schools

It consists of four schools: Jönköping International Business School, School of Education and Communication, School of Engineering, and School of Health Sciences. All offer a wide range of study programs and courses, a number of which have programs completely in English.

Core areas in English include business, economics and engineering. As for individual courses, there are good opportunities for foreign students in health and teaching.

The essence of Jönköping International Business School, JIBS, is excellence in Entrepreneurship, Business Renewal and Internationalization. The deadline for international students to apply is January 15, 2006.

The School of Education and Communication focuses on Communication Studies, Special

Education and Computerized Learning with all courses offering 7.5 ECTS credits. It focuses on innovative learning by emphasizing the latest technology and computerized media.

The School of Engineering enjoys a well-developed collaboration with companies in the region. Attractive programs like engineering offer gifted students the chance to work in the local labor market. It strives to enhance its international atmosphere, offering courses with a broad technical knowledge base, dealing with leadership, communication, business and ecology. The aim is to equip students with engineering skills and stimulate them towards developing an entrepreneurial spirit.

The School of Health Sciences is known for high academic quality, distinct profile areas and a long experience of education and research, which offers a dynamic environment where students and staff co-operate.

Teaching methods

International students are integrated with Swedish students. There is extensive laboratory work, and teaching is project oriented. Learning is problem-based and 'case method' is used extensively. Essays are common in classes. To prepare, the best thing is to practice English, both speaking and writing.

Life and Services

At the moment education is free in Sweden. However all students must pay for their own expenses such as housing, food, books insurance etc. (approx.

7,500 SEK/month)

Application

It offers two semesters. You would start at the end of August 2006, but the deadline to apply varies. For engineering, you should apply by late March. For business and economics it is January 15. Look at the website for the details and application forms (www.hj.se/eng)

Working

International students are allowed to work in Sweden, including doctorate students. After graduation, they are not guaranteed work in Sweden, but it is possible. A very good foreign friend of Mr. Andersson has established relations in business, stayed on and has had a great career.

Friends and Activities

Swedes are very open and positive towards foreigners.

There are many clubs, pubs, and associations - there are even Swedish fireworks competitions for students. The student union is very active in providing leisure opportunities.

In the surrounding countryside there are islands, villages, biking paths, fishing, etc. For example, right by the university is the second largest lake in Western Europe, and it is entirely clean.

Food and Accommodation

There is guaranteed accommodation, and all rooms have their own kitchens so students can cook. There are a number of Chinese restaurants within walking distance of the university. There are also other ethnic restaurants, such as Indian, Thai, Greek, Lebanese. However, Swedish food is recommended!

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)



The traditional style library

Photos provided by Jönköping University

My Study in the UK (6):

My first week in Britain

By Elite Wang

The first time most Chinese students go abroad is when they begin their overseas study. A good start will help you get settled. By the time you land in Britain, a complete first-week plan should be formed in your mind. Here are some seven-day tips to get twice the result with half the effort.

The 1st day

The university often advises new students to come during Freshers' Week, during which all the welcoming departments are open 24 hours.

Flights from China to Britain usually arrive after 4:00 or 5:00pm local time, so reserved accommo-

dation is a must. Losing luggage is quite common if you transfer your flight. Never worry about that, just fill a form at the airport, leave your address, and the luggage will be brought to you in one or two days. The tip is to bring all the relevant documents with you.

If there is no one to meet you at the airport, go to the information center to get some maps and brochures. If you know where you are going, just ask for directions to where you can get transportation; if not, find a youth hostel at reasonable price. Since you are carrying a lot of luggage, remember to check if the hostel has a luggage care service.

The 2nd day

You may need a whole day to adapt yourself to the new time zone. On the second day you should register at the local police station. The address you provide when registering will be used for your bank account and other fees. Your passport and registration papers will be returned to you within a few days.

The 3rd day

Be prepared for a long queue to matriculate. The freshers' queue has become an interesting site in town every year. Do not waste your time filling the forms beforehand, as you will have enough time to fill them in when you are queuing. Matricu-

lation will take you a whole day.

The 4th day

After getting back your passport and registration papers, you can go to the local bank to open an account. British banks often have promotions and special offers during Freshers' Week. Your account information and card will be sent to you within ten days. Then you can go to apply for a mobile account.

The 5th day

Now you have everything almost completed. Today your college will arrange meetings of the different departments. You will see your teachers and classmates, and begin your first social activity. The timetable for

the first week's courses should be ready by then. Usually, a big party will be held for all the freshers at night.

The 6th and 7th days

Enjoy a relaxing weekend. Get together with your new friends, ask for advice, and make some plans. It will do you good if you can look over your class schedule.

Elite Wang, master student graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She is majoring in Comparative and General Literature, and has stayed in the UK for two years. She can be reached at: wangxiaoyuan@ynet.com

Ask Ayi:

Q: A short trip to Holland has inspired me to study for a master's degree there. Could you give me details about admission requirements and fees?

— Kaminski Booker

A: The academic year normally begins around September and lasts to the middle of June. A few schools recruit in spring and start teaching in March, but there are some variations.

Chinese students need a good level of English: TOEFL scores over 500, IELTS over 5.5. Otherwise the students need to do an English entry exam at the individual universities. Both graduation certificates and related bachelor degree accreditations from Chinese universities are important. Some majors require related work experience, while a mathematics background is necessary for an economic major.

The Dutch government grants tuition privileges to foreign students. The total fees for master course cost between 3,000 to 20,600 euros per year, depending on the majors. Chinese students often spend around 500 euros for living expenses every month and 460 euros for basic insurance every year.

Q: I think Spain is really a good country, but what about its academic strengths? Is the competition for places fierce among international students?

— Lily Buick

A: Spain has a world-class advanced education system, and accepts an increasing number of international students.

In general, the academic season falls into three stages with seven semesters.

The first stage -- the first to the third semester -- focuses on macro-education; the second stage -- the fourth and fifth semesters -- focus mainly on professional training; the third stage focuses on practical internships.

International students have to offer valid certificates that are accredited by the Spanish education department after the translation has been approved.

University graduates should spend 800 hours learning Spanish, and one to two years' study in Spanish public universities to gain a master degree.

As Spanish ranks among the official languages of the UN, it is golden chance to learn it in its native setting. Working part-time is allowed (US\$ 5 to 8 per hour) and a visa is available for travel in EU member countries.

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

High salaries draw Chinese students back home

By Han Manman

"I will give you 500,000 yuan a year to come back China to start an innovative undertaking." It is not a joke: such tempting offers have been made at the 6th Annual North America-China Business Exchange Conference being held in San Francisco, USA.

The conference, from October 26 to November 18, is attracting business leaders and high-status government officials in China to come and look for entrepreneurs and overseas Chinese scholars in North America. The delegations have opened several large recruitment centers to show China's work and business opportunities and to attract investment bids.

China's Hangzhou city delegation, with 18 representatives including the Hangzhou deputy secretary of Municipal Party Committee, is providing over 1000 positions. Nearly 20 of these positions have a 500,000 a year salary. Beside high salaries, many Hangzhou enterprises are also offering shares, bonuses, houses, and cars to attract high-class recruits.

The exchange conference will also be held in Washington D.C., Ottawa University and Yale University.

AL AIN: GARDEN IN THE GULF



Dates: the desert fruit

By Niall O Murchadha

Visitors hoping for an authentic Arabian experience are liable to be disappointed by Dubai, and to a lesser extent Abu Dhabi. If you want a better feel for Bedouin culture, a trip across the desert to the oasis city of Al Ain is a must.

The classroom is as good a place to start as any. The Al Ain boys, clad in their immaculately white *dishdasha* (long one-piece traditional dress) glance absently at the advertisements being shown to them in the classroom. The blank, apathetic looks quickly change at the sight of an advertisement featuring an SUV careering down the side of a sand dune. Deep guffaws fill the classroom as eyes shoot upwards in derision.

"What is so funny?" the teacher's response: The teacher's hat is transferred to the Bedouin students.

"If you go into the desert in one of those you will not come out," the assessment of one. Further questioning revealed, in their estimation, only one SUV passed the ultimate test of endurance on the shifting sands of the Arabian landscape.

"Toyota Land Cruiser," the teenagers, including two crown princes agree. This response typifies the changes that have taken place since the foundation of the United Arab Emirates in 1971. From camels to Land Cruisers, from camp fires to air-conditioned skyscrapers, the UAE has come a long way since its days as the Trucial States under British control.

Al Ain, located on the border with Oman, is a dramatic example of how this land has altered since the discovery of oil. The late President Shaikh Zayed worked tirelessly to transform the red sands of his birthplace into a desert garden and modern metropolis. Abu Dhabi and Dubai, once a journey of several days by camel, are now easily accessible by modern highways. Massive malls line up beside traditional souks, and a lavish array of trees, shrubs, and grasses have been planted all over the city. Al Ain is famous for its football club, but perhaps the strangest sporting addition is the popularity of ice-skating. Walking out of the searing sun into Al Ain Mall, you are greeted by the surreal sight of families in traditional dress gliding across the ice.

All of this change has been frightening for some of the older Emirati. Men who spent their youth meandering through the desert in Bedouin caravans now find themselves driving powerful vehicles and living in air-conditioned mansions crammed with the latest technology. In reaction to this, some have taken to setting up tents beside their houses and sitting by a campfire, drinking strong Arabic coffee.

This conflict between traditional and modern makes Al Ain such an interesting place to visit. Unlike Dubai, and to a lesser extent, Abu Dhabi, locals account for a high percentage of the population in Al Ain.



Picking dates



Ancient irrigation system



Doorway to an oasis

Information:

Hotels:

Al Ain has three hotels that cater for western clientele: the Hilton, the Intercontinental and the Rotana. The Hilton is popular during the day, as sun worshippers can get a good rate as they lie beside the swimming pools in what locals would consider a scandalous state of undress. www.hilton.com

The Rotana is a location favored by the Filipino and Arab population of the city. There is a bar and a nightclub; however, it is advised not to bring a camera to the nightclub to take pictures of your friends: there is a good chance some patrons will react angrily if caught on film. www.rotana.com

The Intercontinental offers respite for the home-sick ex-pat. The Horse and Jockey re-creates the feel of a pub, with televised sports, karaoke nights, quiz nights, and even a bingo night. At midnight the action moves downstairs to Luce's Italian restaurant, with the chef doubling as DJ. www.al-ain.intercontinental.com

Wadi Bashing: Forget Space Mountain, there is nothing like flying over a sand dune in a 4x4 at break-neck speed. Traveling across these wadis (dry riverbeds) and over the dunes is a great way to see the countryside, but is not for the faint hearted. For more information see hotel websites.

Al Jahili Fort



Oasis:

Al Ain Oasis is a pleasant place for a daytime stroll, especially when dates are in season. You can see the ancient yet ingenious un-mechanized falaj irrigation system in action.

Al-Ain Museum:

You can get a better understanding of life before oil at the Al-Ain Museum in the south-east of the city. Musical instruments, Bedouin jewelry, the inside of a Bedouin tent, and an array of weapons are on display. It also contains a range of gifts given to Shai-

Desert dunes



kh Zayed, including a bullet owned by a Palestinian commando leader who hijacked three aircraft and brought them to Jordan in 1970.

Al Ain Zoo:

A good spot to see the endangered Arabian Oryx and Nubian giraffe, Al Ain Zoo has an extensive breeding program aimed at preserving the region's wildlife.



A traditional well

Jebel Hafeet

Take a trip up to the top of this famous mountain to get a panoramic view of Al Ain and the surrounding countryside. It is also several degrees cooler at the top.

Camels

If you travel to Al Ain during the winter months, take a trip out to the camel races on a Friday morning. The camel track is about 20km from Al-Ain, on the road to Abu Dhabi. Camel safaris range from a quick one-hour trip to an overnight journey and a night in a Bedouin tent. You can contact the hotels for up-to-date information.

There is a small camel souk at the center of Al Ain; the livestock souk is also an interesting place to wander around, especially early in the morning when haggling is fiercest.

Buraiimi

Al Ain's twin town on the other side of the border with Oman, Buraimi has not experienced the same changes as Al Ain, making for an interesting comparison. Visitors do not need a visa to cross the border, providing a good opportunity to visit this part of Oman. Al-Hilla Fort provides the backdrop to the Buraimi Souk, which specializes in fruits and vegetables.

Getting there:

Air China flights to Dubai leave at 5.30pm on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays, arriving in Dubai at 10pm local time. Emirates plans to have direct flights to Dubai on February 1, 2006. Flights are currently on offer from Shanghai to Dubai.

Car Rental:

Most car rental companies require that the driver be over 21, with one year's driving experience. They also require that the driver's license be a valid UAE, GCC, or International drivers' license. Some companies also charge additional fees for drivers under 25. Most companies also require photocopies of your passport and driver's license.

Photos by Stefan Zaklin